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FOR TOILETS

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Red carpet rolled out for Rabin

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Defence Minister Rabin yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. that will give Israel virtually equal status with Nato members in bidding for American defence contracts.

The agreement follows a formula drawn up several years ago when Israel was granted the status of a major non-Nato ally, and is not expected in the short term to radically alter the amount of American defence contracts for Israel. The agreement, however, formalizes Israel's position and paves the way for extensive joint research and development projects, as well as for the procurement of Israeli systems for the American military on a competitive basis.

As one Israeli spokesman put it yesterday, "It is more than a step in the right direction."

Pentagon officials have gone out of their way to be forthcoming with Rabin during his visit, which started yesterday morning with the signing of the agreement with his counterpart, Frank Carlucci.

"We have decided to throw out an extra-thick red carpet," one official was reported as saying, admitting that the change in attitude was directly linked to Israel's decision to kill the Lavi fighter project.

In his talks with Carlucci, Rabin outlined the specifications Israel wants on its new batch of 75 F-16s. The U.S. has been waiting for these specifications in order to determine the cost of the project. But it was already clear yesterday that the administration had decided to waive, as a one-time gesture, some or all of the 35 per cent "loading cost" applied to those components of the package to be produced in Israel.

The Pentagon has also proposed a formula for reducing the non-recur-able costs attached to the sale of the aircraft, but specifics on this will only become clearer during Rabin's current visit, after the administration has had time to examine the overall cost of the package in light of the specifications presented by Rabin.

Significant headway was made yesterday with the administration agreement to enter into a 80/20 arrangement for American-Israeli development of an anti-tactical ballistic missile.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)



Yitzhak Rabin, accompanied by U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci, arriving at the Pentagon yesterday.

Probe of Balata complaint under way

By JOEL GREENBERG and JOSHUA BRILLIANT

The commanding officers of the IDF and Border Police in the West Bank are heading a comprehensive investigation into the reported vandalism of property and brutality by Border Policemen during Friday's clash at the Balata refugee camp. Three local residents were killed in the incident.

Residents complained that cars and furniture were vandalized and that they were beaten and suffered verbal abuse by the Border Police.

The two commanders met yesterday with top Border Police officers to discuss the details of the reported incidents.

Soldiers have been given strict orders to exercise maximal restraint in their contact with the population and large numbers of officers have been added to Border Police patrols. In addition, senior Border Police officers in the West Bank have been called in today for a meeting with the Border Police commander in the area, to discuss norms of behaviour by their troops.

OC Central Command Amram Mizna has pushed for a thorough

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Gaza protests continue -- one killed

By BRADLEY BURSTON and JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporters

KHAN YUNIS — Hopes for an end to the week-long rioting here were dashed yesterday as beleaguered IDF troops opened fire on stone-throwing demonstrators, killing one and seriously wounding at least four others.

Hassan Jarhoun, 25, was shot to death in the late morning after a petrol bomb was hurled at a group of soldiers in this Gaza Strip town.

Army officials, sensitive to recent criticism that soldiers had fired on crowds contrary to IDF regulations, conducted an immediate investigation into the incident. According to investigators, Jarhoun had himself thrown the petrol bomb, and the soldiers who shot him and four other demonstrators had acted according to orders.

A total of seven Palestinian have been shot to death since Wednesday in clashes between the security forces and rioters.

By afternoon, the southern Gaza Strip resembled a war zone with gunfire and burning barricades at major demonstrations in Khan Yunis, Rafiah, and the surrounding refugee camps. As in Sunday's unrest, elderly men and women joined the mass of young adults in confrontations with the troops.

One IDF officer said yesterday that the wave of rioting in the southern section of the Strip had no parallel in the 20 years of Israeli rule.

In Rafiah, scores of demonstrators charged a small IDF checkpoint, threatening to overrun the position when soldiers opened fire. At least four demonstrators were wounded in this incident.

The small hospital in Khan Yunis was hard-pressed to handle the number of wounded arriving from various points. Ambulance crews found it nearly impossible to reach some of the injured. They had to make their way past demonstrators

(Continued on Back Page)

Dollar fall sends gold above \$500 an ounce

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The dollar sank to new lows yesterday, pushing gold above \$500 for the first time in nearly five years, as investors fled the currency on fears the U.S. would not move decisively to defend it.

The turmoil in the foreign exchange markets failed to dampen new-found optimism on Wall Street which extended last week's 100-point gain in the Dow Jones Industrial Average by advancing nearly 60 points to 1933 during afternoon trading.

Helped by investment expert Henry Kaufman's view that a recession was not in the cards, Wall Street also brushed aside early declines in the Tokyo and London equities markets and focused instead on a steep drop in oil prices.

Crude oil prices fell to less than \$17 a barrel for the first time since March on the belief that Opec ministers in Vienna would fail to curb overproduction in the cartel. The U.S. benchmark, West Texas Intermediate, fell \$1.10 to 17.21 a barrel. Lower oil prices, which should hold down inflation, also boosted U.S. government bond prices.

The dollar, under fresh pressure since last week's poor U.S. trade figures were disclosed, fell to record lows at 1.6215 Deutschmarks and 127.35 Japanese Yen.

It recovered some ground, however, at 1.63 marks, down from Friday's close at 1.6315 marks, after the White House said it was not seeking a lower dollar to trim the nation's massive trade gap. The government said on Thursday that the October deficit was a record \$17.63 billion.

Security for Sharon flat raises eyebrows

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Industry and Trade Ministry has requested that NIS 70,000 be added to its budget to finance security arrangements in Minister Ariel Sharon's flat in the Moslem Quarter, government sources told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. But a spokesman for the minister last night denied the report, and said that Sharon had never raised such a request.

The ministry does not deal with matters connected to the security of Sharon's flat, the spokesman said. Nor does Sharon plan to ask for such funding in the future, he added.

But, the sources indicated yesterday that such requests did exist, and there was a need for additional funding since the ministry already pays from its own budget for security arrangements in Sharon's Negev ranch.

Andy Court adds: Some 300 guests, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and various MKs among them, have reportedly been invited to Sharon's new apartment at 35 Hagai St. for tonight's Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony at 8 p.m. A commercial strike is expected in East Jerusalem tomorrow in response to Sharon's presence in the Moslem Quarter, a senior city official said.

Peace Now organizers reached an agreement with the police yesterday over the site where their demonstration against Sharon is to be held, thus averting the need for a High Court of Justice hearing that was scheduled for this morning. The demonstration will take place in the amphitheatre area outside of the Damascus Gate, a Peace Now spokesman said.

The Likud Knesset faction sent a congratulatory cable to Sharon, saying that the "dedication of a new home in such a crucial location is the best proof of all that the people of Israel have come to remain in the land for all eternity."

Shamir: terrorists behind tension in areas

Jerusalem Post Staff

The Arab terror organizations are employing every available channel of communication with the residents in the territories to heighten tension and to provoke more clashes with the security forces, Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday.

"We cannot say that external incitement is ineffective," he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee in a briefing on the violence in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

On Israel Radio, Shamir described the demonstrators as "boogymen and criminals" who acted brazenly against the troops because they knew that the IDF makes every effort not to open fire unless it is imperative.

Speaking later to reporters, however, the prime minister said that the actions of the protesters could not be described as "daring." Regrettably, he said, the demonstrators do not heed the warnings of tear gas or rubber bullets, and that means they pay the price in bloodshed.

Shamir told the Knesset committee the security forces always try to avoid casualties among the civilian population, but this was not always possible.

The prime minister also said that PLO propaganda deliberately aimed to spark a domestic quarrel in Israel about the situation in the areas, and was having some success.

"We must not play into the hands of the PLO in this respect," he said, stressing that he was heartened by Alignment MK Mordechai Gur's remark that political debate must be isolated from the tasks in the areas entrusted to the IDF.

Shamir said that the debate over whether the situation in the areas should be described as a "rebellion" or "civil disobedience" was one over semantics. In 1936-38, he said, some called the riots "the troubles" and others called them "the Great Arab Revolt," but it made no difference in the end.

Shmuel Goren, the Defence Ministry's coordinator in the areas, said the disturbances were on the decline, although the situation was far from quiet.

"The Arab population is not cutting itself off from the military government, and the leaders maintain their dialogue with us as usual," he said. "The bridges across the Jordan are open, and the municipal system is functioning smoothly. Workers are travelling to their jobs wherever there are no riots."

He said that standing orders on opening fire had been strictly adhered to, and were designed to reduce the threat to soldiers.

Goren said: "We have had a few problems with the Border Police. The incidents are being probed in an objective manner and there will be no whitewashing."

Gur said that while no "revolt" could be discerned in the areas, his-



It takes a lot of hard work to squirt the jelly inside the doughnuts for the first Hanukkah candle tonight, but these two workers at the Jerusalem Hilton, Tal Estion (left) and Lorraine Klecha, find this chore of holiday preparation, to be carried out in thousands of homes today, a reason for smiling

UPI reports Pollard information was sent on to Moscow

'Soviet moles tunnelled into the Mossad'

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Agencies

LONDON — The Mossad's highest echelons have been penetrated by Soviet "moles" who have set up an Israeli-Soviet "espionage pipeline," according to American intelligence sources quoted in Washington yesterday.

The United Press International news agency reported that the penetration began early in the 1980s and was discovered after data stolen by convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard was "traced to the Eastern bloc."

The Pollard information, according to the U.S. intelligence source quoted by UPI, was traded to the Soviets in return for promises of increased Soviet Jewish emigration. Among the information reportedly transferred were details of U.S. weapons technology and strategic information concerning the defence forces of Turkey, Pakistan and moderate Arab countries including Saudi Arabia.

According to one analyst quoted by UPI, "right-wing" Israelis are involved in the Mossad penetration which, he claimed, has sent the Israeli secret service's reputation "plummeting."

Premier Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, denied knowledge of the reported security breach, telling UPI: "It seems to be utter fantasy."

The State Department has declined to comment on the reports, but administration spokesmen are quoted by UPI as saying that "Soviet penetration of the Mossad was discussed at meetings of the CIA, FBI, and other U.S. counter-intelligence specialists."

Infiltration, according to the U.S. sources, has occurred "at very significant levels." At one meeting, according to an anonymous intelligence source, "a CIA guy spoke up and said that if the Mossad was involved (in the Pollard affair), it meant that copies of everything were going to the KGB's Moscow Centre."

U.S. counter-intelligence networks are reportedly carrying out a "full-scale internal investigation" of the penetration.

Celebrated British spy writer Chapman Pincher, author of *The Art of Trenchery*, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that he had "no doubts that the Soviets are trying to penetrate the Mossad. They would dearly love to do so."

While there had been several instances of Mossad penetration in the past, he added, including double agents passing information to Egypt some years ago, "I have no knowledge of Soviet moles operating in the Mossad at present. But in the world of intelligence, anything is possible," he said.

Supreme Court blocks kidney transplant

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld an appeal by the attorney-general against a lower court ruling which would have authorized the removal of a kidney from a retarded man, without his approval, for transplantation in his father.

The Supreme Court, comprising five justices (Ben Porath, Elon, Barak, Bejski and Bach) because of the importance of the case, ruled unanimously to overturn the decision of the Beersheba District Court. It accepted the attorney-general's argument that there was no certainty that the father would indeed be helped by the transplant, while it was certain that the son's condition would be made worse.

But more importantly, the court accepted the argument that if the transplant were approved without the agreement of the son, retarded people would soon become targets for obtaining organs for transplantation against their will. (UPI)

Rioting gets extensive coverage in Western media

British cameras miss the provocation

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON — Scarcely an hourly news bulletin goes by here now without a report on the continuing unrest in the West Bank and Gaza.

Domestic issues, such as the crisis in the health service, and international news, like Bob Geldof's latest trip to famine-stricken Africa, still take precedence in radio and TV broadcasts. But the disturbances are certainly front-page news, and much has been made of Israeli commentators' published fears that the protests are getting into "civil revolt."

While great care is taken each day by print and electronic media alike to include official Israeli accounts of what is occurring, news cameras inevitably get to the trouble spots too late to capture any pre-confrontation provocation.

All viewers here see are Israeli soldiers firing into massed ranks of shouting, stone-throwing, panicking

Palestinian youths.

As always, the picture is most vivid when correspondents focus on smaller elements of the general scenario. *The Independent* reported yesterday, for example, that "Israeli troops seized wounded Palestinians out of a hospital building, then beat them about the head, sending blood running down their faces, and shoved them into a jeep."

"They would have taken them away if an officer had not yelled: 'What the hell are you doing? Put them back. Can't you see there are two journalists here? Are you crazy?'" the paper added.

The BBC's World Service has repeatedly broadcast an interview with PLO leader Yasser Arafat from Baghdad, in which he accuses the Israeli cabinet of deliberately planning to provoke confrontation, describes the Palestinian rioting as legitimate resistance against occupation, and accuses his inter-

(Continued on Page Four)

Drama played up in U.S.

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza has received widespread attention in the American news media.

All the television networks have broadcast dramatic footage of the confrontations between Palestinian stone-throwers and Israeli soldiers.

The Cable News Network, for example, followed soldiers during a tense patrol in the Nablus market where they chased young Palestinians throwing stones. ABC's Dean Reynolds filed a graphic report from Gaza, where he showed an area teeming with frustrated and angry Arabs.

The networks and the major newspapers have reported conflicting estimates of the number of killed and injured Palestinians coming from Israeli and Palestinian sources.

(Continued on Page Four)

'It looks like the news from South Africa'

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

JERUSALEM — All French TV channels have broadcast pictures of the rioting in the territories, showing burning tyres, stones being thrown at soldiers and troops firing tear-gas grenades at very young demonstrators.

"To all of us, it looks like the news items we get from South Africa," Sylvie Ramir of M6-TV told *The Jerusalem Post*. "The stories we receive from Israel speak of an insurrection. It really sounds bad."

"The attacks of the Israeli soldiers against the young Palestinian demonstrators are premeditated carnage," said PLO representative in Paris Ibrahim Souss on Antenne 2, the second TV channel. In the same newscast, Israeli Ambassador Ovadia Sofer countered that the PLO was organizing the riots.

In its editorial yesterday, *Le Monde* wrote that for the young Pal-

estinians, "determination has overcome disarray." For 20 years Israel has kept its *Pax Hebraica* in the territories at a very low cost in men and materiel, said *Le Monde*. But there is no need to look for a "foreign manipulator" in what is currently happening in the territories, and no serious Israeli leader believes that there is one, even if Arafat tries to steal the show from his offices in Baghdad.

A communique issued by Foreign Ministry expressed "acute concern over the outbreak of tension in Cis-jordan-Gaza that has led to dead and wounded and that has affected in particular the population of the occupied territories and of the refugee camps."

The French authorities stressed that the Geneva Convention of 1949 obliges Israel "to assure the protection and the security of the population in the occupied territories."

1 day to Hanukkah



Leumi still closed

Bank Leumi branches throughout the country remain closed today, as management imposed a lockout for the second day.

Leumi staff committees have asked their colleagues in other banks to refuse to honour cheques drawn on Bank Leumi, as a measure of solidarity with the Leumi staffers' struggle. Yesterday, Leumi advised its customers that they could draw cheques up to NIS 300 per day from other banks, as well as NIS 100 per day from automated teller machines.

Zadik Bimo, Bank Leumi's chief executive officer, vowed to maintain a tough stance in his fight with the bank's staff committees.

See interview page 9

The weather at major Swissair destinations

14.12.87	MIN.	MAX.	
°C	°F	°C	°F
AMSTERDAM	-2	23	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	-2	27	Clear
CHICAGO	-1	28	Clear
CINCINNATI	-1	30	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-2	28	Cloudy
GOSHA	-2	28	Cloudy
HONG KONG	14	18	Clear
JERUSALEM	10	25	Clear
LONDON	10	18	Cloudy
MADRID	9	13	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-2	28	Cloudy
NEW YORK	-2	28	Cloudy
OSLO	-2	28	Cloudy
PARIS	-2	28	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	22	24	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	4	28	Cloudy
TOKYO	9	28	Cloudy
TORONTO	-2	28	Cloudy
ZURICH	-1	20	Foggy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem 93	9-11	13
Golan 93	10-11	13
Nahariya 96	8-10	12
Safed 96	13-19	20
Tiberias 80	14-19	22
Nazareth 78	10-15	18
Adula 65	13-19	21
Shomron 65	10-16	17
Tel Aviv 63	13-20	21
B-G Airport 73	12-18	20
Jericho 62	13-21	23
Gaza 72	14-20	21
Beersheba 70	11-19	21
Eilat 29	12-24	26

Khomeini said to be in a coma

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON - Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini was reported yesterday to have been taken ill and to be in a coma in a Teheran hospital. The Times, quoting sources both in Teheran and with the Iranian delegation to Opec talks in Vienna, said that the 85-year-old Khomeini's illness had paralyzed the Iranian government.

Abu Nidal group executes three for spying for Israel

BEIRUT (Reuters) - The Abu Nidal terror group said yesterday it had executed three Palestinians who had admitted spying for Israel. The Fatah Revolutionary Council, in a typewritten message in Arabic delivered to an international news agency in West Beirut, said the three were accused of collecting information on Palestinian military bases for Israel. They were executed on November 26 after they confessed in a "revolutionary court" to "crimes against the Palestinian armed revolution."

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Speculation on IDF action

Unifil reports no unusual activity

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ROSH HANUKKA - The UN force in Lebanon yesterday reported no unusual activity in the areas under its control despite Lebanese press stories that Israel is massing troops for a major operation.

Unifil spokesman Timor Goksel said he had been inundated with inquiries from journalists in the past two weeks because of reports in the Lebanese press.

"There has been no unusual movement or activity in the areas where Unifil is deployed. The region has been generally quiet for the past fortnight," he told The Jerusalem Post last night.

In response to a question, Goksel noted, however, that Unifil had no access to most parts of the security

zone in South Lebanon and could not observe what was happening in those areas or further south.

There has been speculation that the IDF is planning retaliatory action in the wake of last month's hang-glider attack on a Nahal base near Kiryat Shmona in which six IDF soldiers were killed and seven wounded.

Beirut-based newspapers carried stories yesterday of a concentration of Israeli troops in the eastern sector of the security zone. The papers, quoting "security sources" in Sidon, reported that a column of armoured vehicles had been seen travelling towards the Christian stronghold of Jezzine. One paper, *al-Safir*, reported PLO chief Yasser Arafat as saying that Israel had mobilized troops along the northern border.

Florida anthropologist takes stand for defence after two-week recess

By ERNIE MEYER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Defence testimony at the Demjanjuk trial, which resumed yesterday after a two-week break, seemed designed to undermine the testimony prosecution witness Professor Patricia Smith gave in May.

Anthropologist Smith used the "partial superimposition method" to show that the person whose photo appears on the 1942 [Travnik] identity card was the accused. The defence yesterday called Professor Yasser Mehmed Iscan who teaches anthropology at Florida Atlantic University. His findings with those of Smith, whom he said he knows from recent congresses in New Mexico and Lisbon.

ceived his B.A. from the University of Ankara in 1968. He continued his studies at the University of Indiana and at Cornell. Moving to Florida Atlantic University in 1977, he became a full professor there last year. His research concentrates on human skeletal variations.

Iscan is a member of 12 professional associations. This includes a fellowship in the American Society of Forensic Sciences. "I am proud of being the founder of the Dental Anthropological Association," the professor said. He added that he spends between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a year attending professional meetings. Apart from his teaching and research, he also acts as a referee, advising editors of learned journals on which articles to publish.

Chumak asked Iscan about the "partial superimposition method" Smith had used and was told that Iscan was familiar with it. "I have been involved in more than 40 forensic investigations over the last 10 years and also testified in court a number of times," Iscan said. He revealed that he had prepared a video tape to illustrate his testimony at this trial.

Iscan has two books to his credit, *The Human Skeleton in Forensic Science*, and *Age Markers in Human Skeletons*. Asked whether he had been consulted in the identification of the Mengele remains two years ago, he said that he had merely commented on the case on TV shows.

Yesterday's session ended after only two hours, to allow attorneys to attend the funeral of prosecutor Michael Shaked's brother, who died suddenly.

Due to the Hanukkah holiday this week and next, sessions will end at 2.30 p.m. every day.

DEMJANJUK ON TRIAL

Iscan was questioned by the new member of the defence team, former Toronto prosecutor Paul Chumak. Although Chumak has done investigative work for the defence for several months, this was his debut as an active participant in the actual trial.

Perhaps mindful of the damage the prosecution had done in cross-examination to defence witnesses Edna Robertson and Anita Pritchard, Chumak took great care in establishing the academic credentials of his witness.

Iscan was born in Turkey and re-



Foreign Minister Peres talks with Jehan Sadat, widow of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, at a dinner and convocation of Yeshiva University in New York City on Sunday. Looking on is Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the university. (AFP)

Peres urges 'new page' in Israel-Brazil ties

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the first Israeli foreign minister to visit Brazil in over 20 years, yesterday called on Israel and Brazil to open a "new page" in the relations between the two countries.

Peres arrived in the capital, Brasilia, from New York yesterday morning and met with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Costa Abreu Sodre.

At a luncheon hosted by Sodre, the Brazilian foreign minister expressed his support for an international conference based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and for closer relations between Israel and Brazil.

Brazil has always supported UN calls for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and a senior government official described current bilateral relations as "at best, correct."

Bilateral trade runs at a mere \$30 million annually and a 1959 cultural agreement is virtually "dormant."

Peres also said that Israel does not object to Brazil's traditionally close ties with Arab countries, which might also prove beneficial to Israel.

Political observers in Brasilia say Peres' visit to Brazil has been made possible by the positions he has taken within Israel's Labour party in favour of dialogue with the Arabs.

It also coincides with Brazil's current membership of the UN Security Council and comes at a crucial time for Israel's maritime transport company, Zim who are negotiating for the purchase of 10 Brazilian container ships, in a deal which could be worth around \$500m.

Peres is scheduled to meet today with top Brazilian officials before flying on to the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo.

BALATA PROBE

(Continued from Page One)

Investigation of the reports of improper behaviour at Balata, and has impressed upon Border Police and IDF officers in Balata that their troops must refrain from any unjustified violence against persons and property in the camp.

The Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, Shmuel Gorea, yesterday told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that there would be "no coverup" in the investigation.

A top military source said that while the Border Police were being used because they knew how to be "firm and tough," he was concerned about the possibility of excesses by these troops. The source said that every measure would be taken to prevent improper behaviour and those responsible would be punished. If such incidents could not be stopped, the Border Police would be withdrawn, he said.

Turning to Friday's shootings, the source said that while the Border Police apparently had no alternative but to open fire, they acted wrongly by allowing themselves to be caught in the mob.

The source said he believed the riots in the West Bank had passed their peak. Unless there was a violent clash with more fatalities, the area would calm down today or tomorrow, he predicted.

Security forces are anxious to calm the area well before the January 1 anniversary of the founding of Fatah, usually marked by protests.

The source's prediction was based on a belief that the riots were similar to earlier waves which had petered out after several days. Most of the current incidents involve 20 to 30 people and not the entire population. Arab labourers have been reporting to work in Israel as usual. This means that there is no popular uprising, the source maintained.

SIGNING

(Continued from Page One)

tic missile system, with America putting up 80 per cent of the development costs. Until now the U.S. had insisted on 50/50 participation.

While the U.S. administration and military have been forthcoming on these projects, however, there are several congressional barriers that have to be overcome. These

include the rewriting of legislation to allow funding for the projects. Rabin is expected to concentrate on this when he meets with congressional leaders today.

While understanding the need for Israeli firmness in this regard, Powell told the minister that firmness alone was not a solution and that broader approaches had to be explored.

SHAMIR

(Continued from Page One)

Labour's promotion of an international peace conference was a classic example of putting party before country, he said. He urged Rafi-Ometz to unite with the Likud for the forthcoming elections, "because a Likud victory in the next elections is a matter of survival for Israel."

He said that Israel has always been united in times of terrorist as-

saults or attacks by Arab armies, and differences of opinion were put aside for the duration of such crises. "Of course, those who put party politics above all else don't understand such things. It's the only explanation I can find for their foolishness. Do they want to return us to the days before the Six Day War, when the Arabs could place a question mark over our very existence?" he asked.

Out of the mouths of babes

DORTMUND (Reuters) - A 24-year-old man suspected of robbing babies was arrested carrying a plastic bag containing 757 dummies, teething rings and two feeding bottles containing red wine, a police spokesman said yesterday.

He said a witness saw the man take a dummy test from the mouth of a year-old baby which was lying in its pram.

The thief fled but ran into the arms of a policeman.

Teachers, Treasury to renew talks on pay

By BERNARD JOSEPHS and LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporters

More than 200,000 schoolchildren stayed at home yesterday as teachers struck over a pay dispute. But last night the two teachers' unions said that their members will return to the classrooms today and that talks with the Treasury, broken off last Wednesday, are to restart immediately.

"We shall meet with the Finance Ministry tomorrow and I expect that our talks will go on for some time," said Shoshana Bayer, head of the Secondary School Teachers' Association.

All 1st-grade and 12th-grade classes were closed yesterday due to the teachers' walk-out, sparked by the failure of negotiations to compensate them for the erosion in their

salaries. Treasury officials told the association and the Histadrut Teachers' Union that there was no money to meet their demands. Some union officials warned that yesterday's strike would be the forerunner of tougher sanctions if there is no agreement by Hanukkah.

Bayer said that after the holiday her organization is planning to release the results of an internal survey that shows large numbers of teachers are abandoning the profession because of dissatisfaction with pay and conditions.

The Education Ministry last night issued a statement backing the teachers' contention that their salaries have been eroded in the past four years. "We cannot allow this situation to continue," said the statement.

MK says 'strike should be very last weapon used'

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

A strike should be "the very last weapon to be used by teachers, especially since, on the whole, our teachers are not too badly off," Knesset Education Committee chairman Nahman Raz said in an interview yesterday.

But, he added, "teachers must feel they have reached the end of the road with the Treasury. The strike is surely a desperate cry of protest against what they claim is pay erosion. I feel that they should accept the Treasury's offer of arbitration."

Pointing out that the country's teachers have won most of the benefits that the Etzioni Committee of the 1970s recommended, even though that battle took about a decade, Raz strongly implied that the strike may have as much to do with politics and power struggles within the teachers' unions as with pay grievances, though he did add that "teachers don't usually make exaggerated claims."

The committee did not have the strike on its agenda yesterday and won't be discussing it at all this week, "unless it escalates," said Raz.

What worries him more are the Treasury's proposed education budget cuts and the harm already done to the country's school system. If the choice must be between user-charges for education or the health services, Raz would prefer the latter.

"No one," he argues, "will begrudge money spent on their children's health. But far too many people, in precisely those sections of the population where more schooling is

crucial, will take their youngsters out of school if they have to pay."

Raz, a member of Kibbutz Geva, is opposed to a return to the graded school fees of the state's first 30 years; yet he feels that those who can afford to pay should do so. "They should do it through income tax," he continued, "in up to 100 schools throughout the country parents have already set up corporate bodies to fund extra services for their children. It's in many ways a praiseworthy effort, but it contains within it the seeds of a new and dangerous cultural gap."

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim is in a bind, according to Raz, who believes Nissim is "honestly determined not to embark on election economics. But, on the other hand, he wants to keep taxes down in order to contain inflation. He will win his popularity by maintaining his credibility. Yet, politically, an education levy is a hot potato for all parties, and I don't believe he can put it through."

A joint sub-committee of the Education and Finance Committees is already at work to battle threatened cuts. Raz believes it will save off the worst of the budget's bite, but it almost certainly will not succeed in getting the Treasury to take account of the steady growth in the school population. That would mean a budget hike, which Raz knows will not be forthcoming.

Raz's own solution would be to ask Nissim to be more circumspect in his proposed income tax cuts. "Israelis don't pay the dramatic rates of the Scandinavian countries. Just one percentage point less in the proposed income tax easement would solve the entire problem. But that is a political decision."



Kibbutz girls scramble through a tough new combined three-month-long IDF basic training and non-com qualification course. (PPA)

Engine hitches a ride to LA

By JONATHAN KARP
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV - It's a rare occurrence when an engine falls off a plane; but it's even more rare to find that you are flying with an extra engine.

Passengers aboard El Al's flight from New York to Los Angeles yesterday may have noticed a fifth engine hanging from the wing of their Boeing 747. The engine did not operate during the flight - it just hitched a ride as a replacement part for an El Al cargo plane, airline spokesman Nahman Klieman said.

The freighter, also a 747, devel-

oped a problem in one of its engines on Sunday en route to Los Angeles. The engine that failed had been recently overhauled by its manufacturer, Pratt and Whitney, and El Al plans to investigate the cause of the problem, Klieman said.

El Al decided to fly in another engine from New York, using the passenger plane that was passing through. "Otherwise, we would have had to hire another airline to do it," Klieman said, adding that the engine was affixed to a special point on the wing and did not affect the plane's balance or the operation of wing flaps.

This winter some of the needy elderly will be depending on you for a square meal.



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Light first Hanukkah candle tonight

By HAIM SHAPIRO and GREER FAY CASHEMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Yael made a *hanukkah* yesterday by pasting metal cups onto a board. The cups were not in a straight line and the paint was a bit uneven. But for a four-year-old it was quite an achievement and she was justly proud of it.

Tonight, along with thousands of other children and adults in Israel and abroad, Yael will light the first Hanukkah candle to mark the beginning of the eight-day holiday commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks and the rededication of the Temple.

Then, like most other children, she will enjoy the traditional hot jelly doughnut, and spin her *sevivon*, the four-sided top with the letters *nun, gimel, heh* and *peh*, standing for the words "a great miracle happened here."

In other holiday observances, the Religious Affairs Ministry has organized what its spokesman describes as "especially festive" candle-lighting ceremonies at the Western Wall, complete with soloists and choirs. During the holiday, a section of the tunnels running along the length of the Wall will be opened to the public, and an audio-visual show on the excavations will be presented. Those lighting the giant *hanukkah* at the Wall will include the chief rabbi, a representative of the northern

border settlements, a representative of the moshav movement, the chief of general staff and the secretary-general of the Histadrut. Lighting time at the Wall will be 4:40 p.m. on weekdays, 3:40 p.m. on Friday and 5:40 p.m. on Saturday.

The IDF Chaplaincy Corps has arranged guided tours for army units to sites associated with the Maccabees, and a candle-lighting ceremony at Mitzpe Modi'in. Jerusalem, the War of Independence and the state's 40th anniversary will be the themes of Israel Television's nightly Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremonies.

An additional candle will be kindled each night against such backdrops as Mount Scopus, the Jewish Quarter, Gush Etzion, the Kastel, Ramat Rachel and monuments honouring Etzel and Hagana heroism. Soldiers who defended Jerusalem during the War of Independence will be present at the candle-lighting ceremonies.

The one departure from this format will be on Sunday, when the honour of lighting the sixth candle will be given to former Prisoner of Zion Yda Nudel, marking her first Hanukkah of freedom.

Nudel's presence on the screen is to emphasize the continuing miracle of aliyah from the Soviet Union. The programme immediately following her appearance will be devoted to recent arrivals from Russia.

THE BOARD OF THE ALYN HOSPITAL extends its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family on the sudden death of
RONNIE CHOCZNER

LOUIS LITTMAN
of London, England
founder of the Littman Library of Jewish Civilisation, died in London on December 7, 1987, at the age of 62.
Mourning by his widow, Colette, his sons, Robert and Cedric, and all his family and friends.

Belgian PM forced to resign

BRUSSELS (AP) — King Baudouin began talks with party leaders Monday to form a new government, one day after the centre-right coalition lost most of its legislative majority to the opposition Socialists.

The sovereign received outgoing Premier Wilfried Martens who offered his resignation, the royal palace announced. King Baudouin accepted and asked Martens to carry on as caretaker prime minister. The monarch was expected to consult later in the day with other political leaders.

The Socialists demanded a role in the next government after dealing a severe blow to Martens's coalition of Christian Democrats and Conservatives. With virtually all votes counted, returns showed the outgoing coalition taking 110 of 212 legislative seats, down five.

The Socialists gained five to reach



Wilfried Martens, who has resigned as prime minister of Belgium (Reuters)

72 and become the biggest single political group in the bilingual nation in more than half a century. All political groups are split into Flemish and French-speaking parties.

Martens, 51, who has led seven governments since 1979 on a programme of economic austerity, on Sunday termed the vote results, "a clear disappointment."

His own Flemish speaking Christian Democrats were the biggest losers Sunday. They lost six seats and fell to 43, wiping out their gain in the 1985 elections. The Flemish-speaking Conservatives won three seats to reach 25, while their Francophone counterparts lost one, going to 23, and the French-speaking Christian Democrats also lost one to slump to 19.

The Socialists in Wallonia, Belgium's French-speaking southern region, won five for a total of 40 seats. The Flemish-speaking Socialists held their own at 32 seats. Together, the Socialists became the largest political grouping with 10 more seats than the long-dominant

Christian Democrats.

The government fell October 19 after it split along linguistic lines over whether to let a militant Francophone mayor of a village astride the linguistic border in Flemish-speaking Flanders remain in office despite his refusal to speak Flemish as required by law.

Martens and his Flemish coalition allies insist on the need to continue economic and financial reforms.

The next legislature will have the power to make sweeping changes in the constitution to give more autonomy to Flanders and to Francophone Wallonia. Such a revision, however, needs a two-thirds majority in both linguistic camps in parliament and would need a government with several political parties on each side of the linguistic divide, further complicating the formation of the new government.

New Zealand outraged by Paris removing convicted agent

WELLINGTON (Reuters) — A French secret agent, convicted for his role in the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, was on his way to Paris yesterday without the consent of an angry New Zealand. Prime Minister David Lange said Major Alain Mafart was flying home on a French military plane from Hao atoll, where he was supposed to spend at least another 18 months in custody under a UN-arranged agreement between Wellington and Paris.

"The French action is a blatant and outrageous breach of that agreement," Lange told a special news conference.

He said France had told New Zealand that Mafart was suffering from unspecified stomach pains, but had turned down Wellington's offer to fly a doctor to Hao.

Mafart and another agent, Captain Dominique Prieur, were each sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to sabotage and manslaughter in connection with the sinking of the flagship of the Greenpeace environmental organization at Auckland on July 10, 1985. A Dutch national was killed in the incident.

Coincidentally, the Rainbow Warrior was finally scuttled off New Zealand on Saturday at about the same time that Lange first heard Mafart had stomach pains.

Mafart and Prieur were transferred to Hao last year under an agreement arranged by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and were supposed to spend at least three years on the island. Under the terms of the agreement, France formally apologized to Wellington and paid \$7 million in compensation.

Lange said the government had written to French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac expressing concern at Mafart's removal from Hao, a military base in French Polynesia.

He said news of Mafart's stomach pains was received on Saturday when France asked that he be allowed to return home for tests.

Lange said no evidence to support the claim was given, so Wellington offered to send a doctor to Hao and an air force plane was prepared for the flight. France took a further 16 hours to say that it would not permit a New Zealand military plane to land on the atoll.

The government was advised yesterday that Mafart had been put on a French military plane and was on his way to Paris, Lange said. France had agreed to a medical examination in Paris by a New Zealand doctor living in London.

Lange added he hoped that Mafart would recover, if he were ill, and would return to Hao.

In Paris, Chirac brushed aside New Zealand charges of treachery and said France had every right to bring home Mafart.

Greenpeace's European director Douglas Mulhall said he was appalled by the move which he called "an outrageous injustice." Chirac, however, strongly defended the decision to bring Mafart home for medical care, saying it was entirely in keeping with the UN-brokered agreement.

"When we negotiated the agreement... it was agreed that if one of the two fell ill or, as one of them is a woman and is married, became pregnant, there would be an automatic return to France," he told a press lunch.

Troubled Ceausescu calls for 'resolute measures'

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — President Nicolae Ceausescu, beset by reports of worker unrest, opened a special congress of Romania's ruling Communist party yesterday with promises of more pay and a call for resolute action to meet production targets.

In a marathon speech carried by the official news agency Agerpres, he conceded that production and trade targets had not been met in the first two years of the 1986-1990 plan, and said "resolute measures" must be taken.

"The Communists, the entire people... expect (the conference's) resolutions to supply answers and new orientations in matters related to the complex domestic and international problems," said the 69-year-old president.

The remarks amounted to a rare admission from Ceausescu that all is not well, and that new ways might be necessary, in the country he has ruled with an iron hand for over 20 years.

But most of the speech showed anything but "new orientations," reaffirming that Romania should pursue a heavy investment and debt repayment programme which Western diplomats say is partly responsible for severe food and energy shortages.

The congress is taking place amid growing manifestations of civil unrest, including a mass riot in Romania's second city of Brasov last month in which some workers were heard shouting "down with the dictator."

East German amnesty ends, 25,000 freed

EAST BERLIN (Reuters) — East Germany has freed more than 25,000 prisoners since July in the most comprehensive amnesty of its 38-year history, the official ADN news service has reported.

It said the state attorney reported that 24,621 people had been released from prisons and 1,753 others detained pending trial were freed before the amnesty expired on Saturday.

An additional 2,741 prisoners would not have to serve their terms, while 311 people serving life sentences had them cut to 15 years, ADN said.

It called the amnesty "the most comprehensive since the establishment of the GDR [East Germany]" in 1949, when the division of post-war Germany into East and West was sealed.

There was no clear indication whether some of those amnestied had been jailed for trying to flee to the West, although Western legal experts who have followed the amnesty closely say the number is around 200. The experts estimated, however, that about 10 per cent of

those freed since the action began in July were back in custody again for new offences.

ADN said those released had been provided with jobs and housing where necessary.

But Western diplomatic sources in East Germany say some East Germans fear that the housing shortage will be worsened and their own wait for housing lengthened if the authorities give priority to relocating the freed prisoners.

East Germans also complained that their laundry has been slowed down since the mass releases. Much of the state's laundry is done by prison workers, and personnel is short at present.

In the last amnesty in 1979, West German government sources estimated that about 22,000 people were freed from East German prisons.

Outfried Hennig, parliamentary state secretary in West Germany's inter-German Ministry, said on Sunday that Bonn believed those whose crime had been a wish to move to the West would be allowed to come to West Germany early next year.



An East German border guard stands behind a graffiti-covered open door in the Berlin Wall, which was unknown to the West until Sunday. It allows Communist guards to pass through the wall in front of the Brandenburg gate. (Reuters)

Asean states open summit in Manila

MANILA (AFP) — Southeast Asian leaders called on Vietnam to pull out of Cambodia and welcomed a U.S.-Soviet agreement on intermediate-range missiles at a summit which opened here yesterday, officials said.

Leaders of the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreed to tighten economic ties and work for a ban on nuclear weapons in the region.

About 10,000 troops guarded the summit site, a conference centre facing Manila Bay, as warships from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia watched nearby waters. Six

helicopters were on standby to evacuate the leaders.

The extraordinary measures were taken due to fears of an attack by political opponents of President Corason Aquino, chairing her first international conference after 21 months in office.

But the only security scare came when a man drove through a checkpoint. He disappeared and his car was towed off after being checked by bomb-sniffer dogs. Attending the two-day summit of the non-Communist grouping were Brunei Sultan Hassan al-Bolkiah, Indonesian President Suharto, Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

Mahathir said that apart from "a total Vietnamese withdrawal" and restoration of an independent and neutral Cambodia, Asean should aim at "ending once and for all the rivalry between the major powers in the region."

"Let Southeast Asia be for Southeast Asians," he said.

Prem stressed the problem was to agree on what kind of political solution would remove the Cambodian problem.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1975 and has an estimated 140,000 troops there backing the Phnom Penh government and fighting resistance guerrillas.

Prem urged Vietnam to "get down to genuine exploration" with Prince Norodom Sihanouk of a political settlement, saying it was "unrealistic" for Hanoi to avoid dealing directly with the resistance leader.

The prince had his first talks with Hun Sen, prime minister of the Phnom Penh government, in France early this month but cancelled planned further talks, saying the other two factions of the resistance should attend them.

BRIEFS

THE PRESIDENT of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, Ivan Stambolic, has been sacked, after being accused by Communist Party hardliners of being soft on Albanian nationalists in the province of Kosovo, which is part of the republic of Serbia. Belgrade Radio said yesterday.

THE CITY of Hiroshima, site of the world's first atomic bomb attack, has protested a Soviet nuclear test carried out less than a week after the signing of a U.S.-Soviet disarmament accord, a city official said yesterday. Hiroshima mayor, Takeshi Araki protested Sunday's nuclear test in a telegram sent to Soviet ambassador Nikolai Soloviev on Sunday night, said a Hiroshima city official.

KREMLIN military strategists, keen to put the shine back into the Afghan army's march against anti-Communist rebels, have turned to a British shoe-polish manufacturer for help. Kiwi Products (UK) Ltd., from the northern English town of Huddersfield, said yesterday the Soviet army had ordered one million tins of boot black for its comrades in arms in Kabul. The order means Afghan forces will join British, French and U.S. armies in the ranks of British shoe polish users.

Nato and Warsaw Pact states a step closer to reducing forces

VIENNA (Reuters) — East and West made an important step forward yesterday in their efforts to set up negotiations on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

Warsaw Pact and Nato states agreed on objectives and methods for the proposed talks, where the 23 nations would negotiate a "stable and secure balance" of conventional forces throughout the continent.

"We're not home by a long way yet but this is an important step forward," said one Western diplomat.

Yesterday's document lays down objectives for the talks which include eliminating imbalances in East-bloc and Western forces and in

either side's capability for launching a surprise attack.

But one diplomat said the regular meetings, which began in September with the aim of producing a negotiating mandate, still faced problems. "Of course there are still a large number of differences," he said.

The proposed talks would be held in Vienna within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which is currently reviewing implementation of the 1975 Helsinki Accords.

They could replace more limited East-West conventional arms negotiations which have made little progress in 14 years.

Joint missile effort by UK and France

LONDON (AFP) — Britain and France are stepping up contacts with the aim of developing an air-launched cruise nuclear missile based on a French design, French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said here Monday.

Giraud and his British counterpart, George Younger, both denied at a press conference that the decision was meant to get around last week's agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to scrap their intermediate-range nuclear missiles. The INF accord will mean the withdrawal of the U.S. cruise missiles from Europe.

Giraud said that future talks between senior military officers from both countries would focus on a possible enhancement of the range and accuracy of the medium-range French air-launched ASMP missile, currently only carried by the French Mirage-2000 warplane. The French minister and Younger also told the press conference at the British Defence Ministry that other ways of developing nuclear weapons cooperation would also be explored.

Kenyan police kill 5 Ugandan soldiers

BUSIA, Kenya (Reuters) — Kenyan police killed five Ugandan soldiers in heavy fighting at the main border crossing between the two countries at Busia yesterday, police sources and eyewitnesses said.

The fighting erupted early in the afternoon when 200 Ugandan soldiers penetrated 100 metres into Ke-

nya.

Police sources said Kenyan police patrols shot dead four Ugandan soldiers in the initial clash.

Sporadic firing continued throughout the afternoon as both sides brought in reinforcements of troops and paramilitary forces and traded fire across the border.

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Palestinians resist evacuating their wounded to Israeli hospitals

By BRADLEY BURSTON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

KHAN YUNIS — The "war of the hospitals" in the Gaza Strip entered a new phase this week, amid rumours of wounded Gazans being put to death in Tel Hashomer Hospital and a violent attack on a hospital official here for alleged "collaboration with Israeli authorities."

There is mounting resistance to Israeli efforts to evacuate severely wounded Palestinian demonstrators to hospitals within Israel.

From the beginning of the current wave of violence last Wednesday, demonstrators have been rushing wounded comrades to Gaza's Shifa Hospital and standing guard over them "lest they fall into Israeli hands."

Initially, fears were expressed that the evacuated wounded would be arrested and tried for petrol bombings and other offences.

On Thursday night, however, with the news that 14-year-old Wahid Abu Salem of the refugee camp here had died in Tel Hashomer, rumours started that the evacuees were being allowed to die or even put to death in an "army hospital near Tel Aviv."

As rioting spread towards Khan Yunis and Rafiah, attention shifted to the small hospital here, swamped over the weekend with no fewer than 60 cases of gunshot wounds.

On Saturday afternoon, local residents burst into the facility, threw a handicapped staff doctor to the floor, and seized deputy director Ahmed al-Shab, the liaison with the Israeli medical authorities.

Citing al-Shab's part in transporting wounded to a nearby beach for helicopter evacuation, the men dragged al-Shab to a courtyard, shouting: "He helps the Jews, he helps the Jews."

Members of the crowd then tried to choke al-Shab, cut him repeatedly on the scalp and jaw, and beat him with their fists.

After the attackers left the hospital, the 31-year-old al-Shab, a father of seven, was himself airlifted to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital for treatment.

Yesterday, al-Shab told *The Jerusalem Post* that, though he intended to return to work, the prospect terrified him.

Said a friend of al-Shab's from Khan Yunis, now standing guard over him in Soroka: "He's a good man. He's done so much to help people in Khan Yunis, to help the Arabs there. He's found doctors for people who couldn't get them."

"When they came to beat him, he told them, 'I'm not helping the Jews. I'm only helping people.' But they didn't listen, they just took him away."

Jerusalem congregation to dedicate new home

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

It is a congregation with no rabbi, although it has nine rabbis as members. It is also the country's only non-Orthodox congregation not affiliated with a movement, although, according to Rabbi Jack Cohen, its members wish there were more like it.

Tonight, Congregation Mevakesh Derekh, which began in 1962 as a nationwide discussion group on Israel's spiritual situation, will dedicate its new building in the San Simon quarter of Jerusalem. In addition to the one Reform, two Reconstructionist and six Conservative rabbis who

belong to it, there are about 10 professors, not to speak of other scholars.

Though it is outspokenly non-Orthodox, the congregation also has a number of Orthodox members, the most prominent of whom is Professor Ze'ev Falk of the Hebrew University Law Faculty.

On a less happy note, seven of its members' sons fell while serving in the Israel Defence Forces; and the new building has been named Yehonatan (Memorial to Our Sons).

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* prior to the dedication, Cohen stressed that the decision to remain unaffiliated was one of

principle, based on the feeling that there was an urgent need for a local response to the unique problems of Israel.

"To bring the problems of Diaspora Jewry to Israel would be to do a disservice to Judaism in Israel," Cohen said, adding that he considered Orthodoxy just as much a Diaspora movement as the other religious groupings.

In its religious services, the congregation uses the traditional siddur and whoever leads the prayers makes changes according to his or her own outlook. The congregation is devoted to complete equality for women.

Steve Toberman, the congregation's recently appointed executive director, explained that, with the new building, the group has begun an outreach programme to attract residents of the area. Though the congregation has always sponsored a wide variety of study groups, the new building has made possible a weekly folk dance performance.

The new building is already used for weddings, bar mitzva celebrations and b'rivot. Although some rabbis who are authorized by the local rabbinate to officiate at weddings will not come to Mevakesh Derekh, there are others who are happy to do so.

The ghost of Orwell shows up in Moscow

By ANDREW WILSON

MOSCOW — Televisioners following the unravelling of last week's Washington summit might have noticed a slight, moustached figure normally at the edge of the crowd. They should not be surprised by the unmistakable Englishness of the shapeless tweed jacket, or the cigarette drooping from the corner of the mouth. It is only the ghost of the late George Orwell, seeing how things are shaping after 1984.

Orwell would have found quite a lot to amuse him in a sardonic kind of way, these past few weeks in Moscow; and a bit to cheer him, too. One doesn't turn round an ex-Stalinist police state in a couple of years. But Mikhail Gorbachev has started the process: he means to go on with it (if time and colleagues allow), and one day — who knows? — the tadpole of *glasnost* may turn into the democratic newt.

The trouble with the present stage, as Orwell would have observed, is its incompleteness. Things which were formerly an accepted part of the scene, now stand out starkly against the background of *perestroika* and new thinking ("for the Soviet Union and the whole world.")

One of these is the ability of the party and state apparatus to expunge a name — or, as has happened

recently, two names, in a context directly involving *The Observer*.

A few weeks ago, *The Observer* gravely discomfited the highest Soviet circles by printing allegations made by the former Moscow city party chief, Boris Yeltsin, against Gorbachev's wife, Raisa.

Most wounding was the charge that she received a high salary from the quasi-charity National Cultural Fund, and that by her life-style as "first lady" she was creating what he called the pre-conditions of a personality cult.

Next day I received a peremptory call to come and see the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press department, Gennadi Gerasimov. It was a brief and predictably frigid meeting. Gerasimov said Yeltsin had made no such allegations, that "Raisa" drew no salary for her work for the fund, and that the whole thing was a lie, for which I owed an immediate apology.

I told him I had no doubt of the facts, or the standing and absolute integrity of my source — but that, of course, after 38 years in my job, I respected the freedom of government information officers to deny stories their masters disliked. Gerasimov abruptly left the room, and I was left to find my way out of the deserted building.

For a week nothing more hap-

pened. None of the parties concerned ventured a public denial of what I had written, though various pieces of what seemed to be disinformation appeared. These included a document purporting to be a transcript of Yeltsin's October 21 speech to the Central Committee, which the recipient put aside, as coming from a suspect source.

Then came another peremptory summons to call Gerasimov. As it happened, I was out of town. And our conversation — an almost verbatim repetition of what was said a week before — took place over the telephone the following morning.

During the day the Foreign Ministry called a snap press conference. As I was not told, I was not there. But I was able to read all about it in the following day's *Pravda*.

There it was, all across page five, an angry denunciation of A. Wilson's "impudent provocation," as delivered by the Foreign Ministry.

Only, surely there was something odd? I looked for names. There was mine, all too often. Gerasimov's of course. And that of a paid official of the cultural fund, G.V. Myasnikov, who had been wheeled in to support the proceedings. But where was Yeltsin's — or Mrs. Gorbachev's? (I found hers, finally, among a list of members of the board of the fund, who, Myasnikov said, received no

emoluments — apart from himself and two others, whom he named). There was no mention of Yeltsin.

The gist of the report was that Wilson, with the worst of intentions, had accused the entire board of "enthusiasts for culture" of drawing large salaries — not that he had been reporting what one prominent Soviet personality had said about another.

The *Pravda* account was credited to the Tass news agency, which has just celebrated its 70th anniversary, with the plaudits of Radio Moscow for its unvarying truth and accuracy. So one must assume that was the way it was, including a volume of schoolmasterly advice from Gerasimov himself on the ethics of journalism.

I confess to having been a little depressed by the whole proceedings. But I need not have worried. In the street I unexpectedly encountered a working-man I knew, and who I also happened to know as a member of the party — Yeltsin's party (and Yeltsin remains a popular figure in Moscow).

He seemed not to have lost his old genius for reading between the lines, for, as we walked, he dug a gritted finger at the *Pravda* I was carrying — and gave me — could it possibly be? — the broadest of grins. (London Observer Service)

Sea of Galilee Marathon criticized

A brave soul dons her running shoes

HELGA DUDMAN

I put on my running shoes and drove down to have a look at the recent marathon here, thus joining all those who came by car and plane. That's what running shoes are largely for — getting in and out of cars, or for wearing when you put your feet up on the table while watching sports on TV.

I'm exaggerating, of course — that's a sport in itself. Marathon Man and Woman indeed exist, jetting around the world fuelled by the competitive spirit, to dash around unfamiliar terrain. Yet there's very little going on — especially in Israel — in that vast unfamiliar terrain that lies between jumping into cars and doing the marathon.

I'm talking about walking: not necessarily running and certainly not jogging. The latter is no longer in such high esteem among doctors, who invented the curious sport and have now decided it's not so great for grownups. So, it takes a brave, if

Galilee gambols

uncompetitive, soul to criticize something as pleasant, positive, outdoorsy and healthy as the Sea of Galilee International Marathon. But here we go.

First, a word about some marathon training I bumped into in Manhattan this autumn. There I was, walking across Central Park (to get from the West Side to the East Side, and pleased that it's considered safe these days, on balmy Saturday afternoons) when all of a sudden I was engulfed by a wave of marathoners, practising for some upcoming biggie. Thousands of them, mostly wearing earphones, mostly wearing skin-tight phosphorescent nylon pants (often with a layer of skin-tight nylon shorts over these), and mostly wearing a glazed look.

They looked like crazed, goofy

costumed sheep trained to run on two legs. But who am I to criticize? Just because I can go uphill in *hams* endlessly, without even owning a training.

In Tiberias for this event, traffic was banned on a main street, almost enough reason to justify the event. School, too, had been banned for several classes, and the place was swarming with kids. Many (though not all — only the majority) blanching with terror when confronted with my cat-sized dog, our local kids aren't too brave about cat-sized dogs. (On getting out of school for this marathon: the most striking intellectual diligence I've noticed among groups of teenagers has been their dedicated study, usually while suitably dressed in sports shoes and training, of the driving instruction booklet.)

You might say: But isn't it nice that at least once a year the festivities are about auto-motion? Maybe, maybe; but maybe the festivalization simply emphasizes the terrible strangeness of going by foot. All the kids in my neighbourhood are driven to school, though it's hardly that far. For most Tiberias girls, the situation is very sad. Conditioned early in life to simper and giggle helplessly when faced with a short unpaved terrain, many automatically bring "excuses" to school to avoid even

the meagre physical education offered.

Boys, as we know, are more competitive than girls, and men more than women, which is what keeps men being boys so endlessly. It keeps them kicking balls around (after being driven home from the marathon), but that's not enough to keep them in good shape after 30, when the Israeli male paunch begins to get sensational.

But what about the sheer exhilaration of Stretching the Human Body and knocking a couple of minutes off the record, established when the modern marathon was re-instituted in 1896. That's when Spyros Loues of Greece did it in 2:58:50.0. But oh, the shame of it, when the next time around the French winner, Michel Theato, ran it in almost a minute more (surely you haven't forgotten these setbacks to human progress?), at 2:59:45.0. After that, human progress soared to tenths of seconds; but I won't bore you with the subsequent ups and downs.

I don't imagine any of the local kids were given the Hellenistic details of the very first marathon, in 490 BCE. It was won by Pheidippides, 23, the only entry, running days and nights (and swimming too) in full army pack (spear and shield) to get help from Sparta against the Persians. Later, without spear and shield, he ran to Athens to announce the Greek victory at Marathon and gasped ("in Greek," as my report notes), "Rejoice, we conquer!" Then, unfortunately, he dropped dead.



Prof. Yuval Ne'eman addresses the Tehiya conference on the demographic problem, held at Beit Sokolow in Tel Aviv yesterday. (IPPA).

'Transfer' not heard at Tehiya's 'emergency' meet on demography

A Tehiya conference on the subject of demography, without even one mention of the word "transfer," includes the following:

□ Descriptions of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as an inciter of bloodshed in the territories, and of MK Yossi Sarid as aiding and abetting terrorism.

□ Charges that the Labour Party is doing everything possible to prevent aliya, and that the Likud is incapable of doing anything for the sake of aliya.

□ Statistical analysis proving wrong the claims of "doomsdayers" of 20 years ago who predicted that the Arab population would outgrow the Jewish population, and more statistical analysis that shows that the "doomsdayers and defeatists" of today are just as wrong.

Indeed, like rallies for newly observant Jews where "scientific proof" is offered to demonstrate the existence of God, so did Sunday night's Tehiya conference seemingly rely on statistical analysis to show that the relative size of the Jewish and Arab populations in "the western part of the Land of Israel" had not changed since 1967.

No Tehiya affair would be complete without at least one theatrical flourish, rhetorical flourish by Gula Cohen.

At the Tehiya "emergency conference," which some 200 people attended at Beit Sokolow, this flourish was included in her introductory remarks.

"I'm going to talk about something that makes people put their heads in their hands," she began, and the assumption was that she would use the word — transfer. She paused just long enough for the possibility to sink in, and then she plunged on: "Aliya." The closest she came to using the word "transfer" was when she said that "Zion-

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv
Robert Rosenberg

ism is all about making people who don't want to come to Israel, come."

Then there was an "analysis" by MK Yuval Ne'eman, the Tehiya leader and nuclear scientist who believes that it will be easier to persuade the world to support an Israeli demand for resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees in the Arab world than it was to persuade President Reagan's administration to reverse former president Carter's policies that depicted Jewish settlement as "illegal."

Ne'eman's analysis included his suggestion for solving the problem of getting along without Arab workers, whom he compared to the Turkish *gastarbeiters* of West Germany and Switzerland. "Automation," he said, citing a trend in Europe to automate computerized and automated petrol stations where Turkish workers had once manned the pumps.

Elyakim Haetzni, a Kiryat Arba lawyer who is proud of knowing Arabic and representing Arab clients, also avoided the term "transfer" in his pamphlet, which was subtitled "without fear and without illusion." He said that the best solution of the demography problem is "half a million (Jewish) children."

The pamphlet said that since it is hardly likely that anyone will be able to persuade modern Israeli women to have a dozen children, there should be an attempt to get them to have one more. "That fourth child's food, clothing, shoes, education and maintenance must be completely financed by the public."

New centre in Eilat to celebrate Israel as a sea-going nation

By JONATHAN KARP

For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV — When one thinks of the great seafaring peoples, the Phoenicians, the Vikings and the British come to mind. Most people are not likely to think of the Jews.

According to the Bible and other sources, however, the Jews have a maritime tradition that reaches back almost as far as the parting of the Red Sea. They have not enjoyed the same mastery of the seas since, but the nation's most recent endeavours have yielded a respected navy and a respectable commercial fleet.

Promotion of this historical association with the sea is the motivation behind the new Eilat Maritime Centre. Construction on the \$500,000 project is due to begin in a few weeks, and according to Deputy Mayor Gadi Levine, the facility's doors should be open late next year, giving Eilat's a unique way to learn about seafaring.

The centre is to be built on a beachfront plot currently occupied by a sailing club, and it will offer courses ranging from elementary boating to more advanced navigation. It will also provide facilities for public lectures on relevant maritime topics.

The centre is to be linked to Eilat's only high school, with courses being offered for credit as well as extra-curricular activities. Levine estimated that almost all the city's 1,500 high school students would choose to participate in one form or another.

The concept of the Eilat Maritime Centre, and a good deal of the funds to establish it, came from another unique organization, the Jewish Maritime League of South Africa (JML). Apart from strengthening their ties with Eilat, the JML sees the centre as serving a national, ideological purpose, according to

national chairman Sam Gross. "We are propagating the idea that Israel is a sea-going nation as well as one that has engineered ways to develop the land," Gross explained during a recent visit to Israel. "Ben-Gurion said it himself: 'There is no redemption of the land without redemption of the sea.'"

Gross, a lawyer and a Cape Town city council member, said that he hoped that many of the high school students who studied at the centre would continue in one of Israel's three maritime academies: Israel Nautical College in Acre, Mevo'ot Yam Nautical School in Michmoret, or Rogosin Nautical School (ORT) in Ashdod. JML already endows several scholarships for maritime studies at these institutes, he said.

Since its creation in 1938, the JML has been involved with Palestinian/Israeli shipping. Gross's wife, Fanny, who published a history of the JML, serves as honorary editor of *Ha-Yam*, the organization's journal.

The connection started with the late Michael Ben-Arie, a JML co-founder who was born in Rosh Pina. It deepened when the JML helped provide the trawler *D'rom Afrika*, which became the first vessel to be converted into a warship by a nascent Israel.

Eilat has special significance to the JML, the Grosses said, noting that it represented the direct link between South Africa and Israel.

The idea of creating a maritime centre evolved from a plan to build a seaman's home. By 1977, there seemed to be no need for such a boarding house, and the organization decided that an educational centre was more forward looking — toward the goal of *kibush hayam*, the conquest of the sea.

Tree-planting event marks Finland's independence

By ANDY COURT

For The Jerusalem Post
The Balfour Declaration and the Finnish Declaration of Independence are not often mentioned in the same breath. But the guests gathered at the Jewish National Fund's "Peace Forest" in East Talpote yesterday afternoon clearly saw a connection between the two documents, which were signed roughly one month apart in 1917.

The guests planted 70 trees to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Finland's independence. The ceremony also celebrated years of friendly relations between the two countries.

"We admire the tenacity of the (Finnish) nation," said Yehayahu Anag, assistant director-general of the Foreign Ministry. "We admire its willingness to pay the price to be free."

Guests at the ceremony included Finnish Ambassador Osmo Valvola, Shmuel Moreh of the Israel-Finland Friendship Association in Jerusalem, and Zvi Segal, chairman of Tel Aviv's Israel-Finland Association.

Finland declared its independence from Russia on December 6, 1917. Civil war broke out the following year, and Finland later fought two costly wars with Russia.

The Balfour Declaration, which expressed British support for a Jewish home in Palestine, was communicated to Lord Rothschild by British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour on November 2, 1917.

Hussein ends tour of Gulf states

AMMAN (Reuters) — Jordan's King Hussein returned home yesterday from Oman after a five-nation Persian Gulf tour aimed at boosting Arab solidarity.

Diplomats in the region said the king discussed the Iran-Iraq War and Middle East peace prospects during his talks in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

U.S. MEDIA

(Continued from Page One)

In an interview Sunday in Baghdad, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said 23 Arabs had been killed and 210 injured. Israeli sources have reported six killed and dozens injured.

The *Washington Post*, the wire services and other news organizations have increasingly cited accounts coming from the Palestine News Service, which military circles in the West Bank have occasionally threatened with closure because of its alleged links to the PLO.

The State Department said it was "deeply saddened" by the killings. U.S. officials said the incidents merely reinforced the need for progress towards an overall peace.

Defence Minister Rabin is in Washington for talks with Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and other U.S. policymakers. Israeli officials said Rabin was staying in close touch with his aides in Israel to monitor the situation.

Last week's U.S.-Soviet summit understandably dominated the news in America. But with that summit now history, the news organizations are now devoting more space and time to the drama in the territories.

UK REPORTS

(Continued from Page One)

viewer of bias whenever he tries to get a word in edgewise.

Arafat apart, there has been much quoting of unidentified UN officials, whose reports of Palestinian children being tied up and buried in the groin, or paraded around refugee camps tied to the front of army vehicles, are said to indicate that Israeli troops are using rather more force than is strictly necessary.

The tensions, it is said, are being exacerbated by incidents of IDF soldiers urinating into camp water supplies and generally displaying a "contemptuous attitude" towards the Palestinians.

There are no euphemisms here about "administered" territories. Israel, the occupier, is "cracking the whip," batons are being used "indiscriminately," and the live ammunition is "flying."

An editorial in *The Guardian* yesterday quoted *Hadashot* as asserting that parts of the territories "have become more and more like Soweto — densely populated, poor, with shameful living conditions and full of hatred."

"Small wonder," *The Guardian* editorial went on, that "the frustration of so many years boils over."

But it is not only the Palestinians who are frustrated, the paper noted. "So are the Israelis, numbers unknown but influence important, who want a way out of the impasse and cannot find it."

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Nicaragua up in arms

DONNA CASSATA/

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON—National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Colin Powell has warned the Soviet Union against providing advanced weapons to Nicaragua, but refused to say if the U.S. would respond militarily to such an action.

Powell's remarks on Sunday came a day after Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said his government plans to more than double its military forces in about seven years.

Ortega linked the military expansion to what he said were U.S. plans to oust the Sandinista government through an all-out invasion. The U.S., which supports Contra rebels fighting the Sandinistas, has denied Nicaragua's claims that an invasion is planned.

The New York Times reported Monday that Ortega confirmed a Nicaraguan defector's statements that the Soviet Union would support Sandinista military expansion.

In most aspects, the build-up outlined by Ortega was remarkably similar to the account given by Major Roger Miranda Bengoechea, a former close aide to Ortega who defected in Mexico seven weeks ago.

Miranda was interviewed on Thursday. It was the first time Miranda had spoken publicly since his defection. In Nicaragua, he had served as chief of the Defence Ministry secretariat.

Miranda said the plans for the expansion were worked out this past summer by Nicaraguan, Soviet and Cuban military officials.

Nicaragua's current military manpower is estimated at 250,000 and will grow to 370,000 by 1990, Miranda said. While Ortega said the build-up is expected to reach 600,000 by 1995, Miranda's figure was 500,000.

Ortega said Nicaragua plans to upgrade its military equipment with new interceptor warplanes and other arms. He did not elaborate.

Miranda said 12 Mig jet fighters and one Mig trainer will be obtained from Moscow, with delivery expected to begin after 1990.

Powell, the recently appointed national security adviser, called Ortega's disclosures "incredible" and cautioned the Soviets against arming the Sandinistas with such weapons as Mig jets.

"We would view such an introduction of advanced Soviet weaponry into the region as a very serious matter," Powell said during an interview programme on the ABC television network. "I wouldn't want to say what we might do at that time that it happened. We would view this kind of intrusion into our hemisphere of this kind of weaponry with the greatest seriousness."

Powell indicated that he was amazed at Nicaragua's planned increase in the number of troops.

"It's a rather incredible statement... where the Nicaraguan government is telling us they're planning to build up their armed forces to the level of 600,000 people by the mid-1990s," Powell said.

"I think one has to look at why a nation of three million people would want to have 600,000 people under

arms," he said. "I think this presents a direct threat to their neighbours."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sought Sunday to play down his brother's remarks, telling a Washington Post reporter that the military build-up "plan does not exist... This is a proposal of the army for the government, but it has not been accepted by the government of Nicaragua."

In the interview in Managua requested by the president, Ortega said Nicaragua would have "a modest army" after the current civil war with Contra rebels ends.

"We have talked of having all our population learn to handle arms to be ready to defend the country, but not of organizing an army of 600,000 men, because this would not make sense," he said.

"This country could not support an army of that magnitude," the president also said. Nicaragua was respecting the Central American peace plan he signed this year with four other leaders of Central American countries. Among its provisions, the peace plan calls for a halt to foreign military aid in the region.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev briefly mentioned Nicaragua in his summit talks last week with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Powell said.

"No deal was made," Powell said. "The general secretary made a few cryptic references to an arrangement where they would reduce their level of arms support to something in the neighbourhood of small arms or even, he said, police weapons at one time, and he made a reference to our doing likewise." (AP)



PART OF A GROWING ARMY—These Nicaraguan women soldiers are planned to be joined by many more conscripts in the next few years. (AFP)

Ethiopia airlift under way to beat rebel siege of famine area

ROBERT POWELL/ASMARA,

Ethiopia

CAPTAIN Patrick Paouzet opened the Hercules, his gleaming white Hercules roared down the runway and 18 tons of Canadian wheat lifted into the air on its way to drought victims in northern Ethiopia.

Paouzet and his five-man French crew operate one of six cargo planes running an emergency food shuttle from Asmara in Eritrea province, to Mekele, the capital of Tigray province, 220 km. to the south. Both towns are under siege from guerrillas fighting Ethiopia's Marxist government, but Mekele is cut off by road.

The airlift began this month to prevent more than a million drought victims in Tigray from starving, and relief agencies are making plans to extend the shuttle to other towns if necessary.

Every day, Paouzet's Hercules makes four return trips to Mekele on behalf of the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, flying over the bare rugged mountains of northern Ethiopia to land supplies on the town's gravel airstrip.

As soon as the engines stop, three trucks back up to the plane's rear door and 30 porters swarm aboard to start unloading. Singing as they work, the porters jog with 50-kg.

sacks on their shoulders to unload the plane as fast as possible.

"To go to Mekele you need 45 minutes, to unload you need 20 minutes and you need 30 minutes to fly back to Asmara... The average turnaround time is two hours," says Roland Riegert, director of relief operations of Balair, a Swiss air freight company which has chartered the Hercules.

On the flight deck, the atmosphere is relaxed. Captain Paouzet props his feet on the window and smiles while the plane is unloaded. His co-pilot reads a novel.

Riegert, who has run air relief operations since 1968, when he ran them during the Nigerian civil war, is impressed by the ease with which bureaucratic obstacles were cleared to start the airlift. "Everything was done in three days. There were open doors and everyone responded," he said.

DELIVERING food by air is expensive, but relief workers say that unless the government and guerrillas allow trucks carrying relief supplies to travel freely, it is the only way to prevent a famine similar to that of 1984/85.

"The cost of operating one Hercules is \$600,000 to \$700,000 per month; with that I could purchase 10 or 25 new trucks," says Admassu

Tefera, who manages the World Food Programme's truck fleet in northern Ethiopia.

But the roads to Tigray are open sporadically and Mekele has not seen a food convoy from the north since September. At the end of November, one convoy reached Waltra, 30 km. north of Mekele, after a drive of five days instead of the normal one. It took a further four days to return to Asmara since the government does not allow traffic on any stretch of road that is not controlled by the army.

A Hercules can deliver the equivalent of three or four truckloads of grain to Mekele daily.

The airlift began with three Antonov AN-12 cargo planes operated by the Soviet Airline Aeroflot on behalf of the Ethiopian government's relief and rehabilitation commission. Within days, they were joined by three Hercules operated on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Roman Catholic church and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization.

Together, these six planes can transport about 10,000 tons of food a month to Tigray, but relief workers say the province will need more than 30,000 tons per month by the end of January as the number of people needing food aid rises.

Reagan assures his place in the history books, strengthens a disintegrating presidency

GENE GIBBONS/WASHINGTON

THE SUMMIT with Mikhail Gorbachev has lifted Ronald Reagan, politically and in spirit, from what wife Nancy recently described as "a terrible year."

Many analysts, however, say the summit will likely benefit the 76-year-old president more in the sense of burnishing his place in history than in short-term political payoffs. "It gives him a chance to go out in a blaze of glory rather than with a whimper," said Stuart Eizenstat, a top White House official under President Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s.

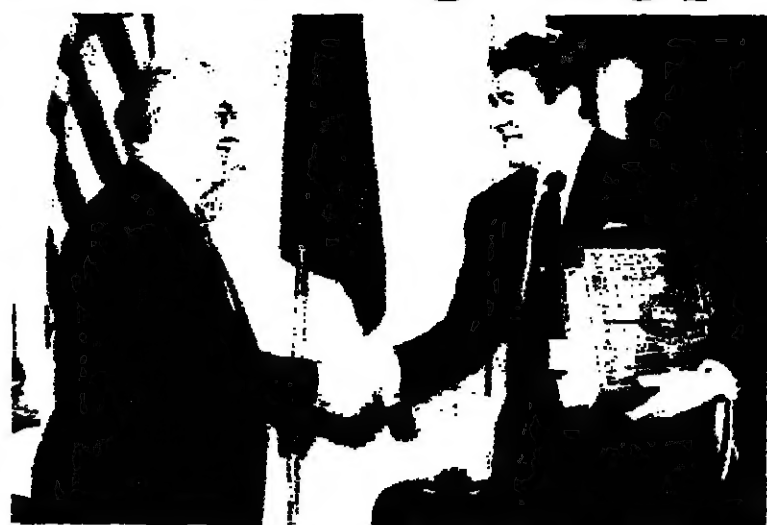
"It gives a new verve to his presidency at a time when it seemed to be disintegrating," added Stephen Hess, a political analyst with the Brookings Institution. "We have a president who no longer has an elaborate political agenda and who is required by the Constitution to retire in January 1989, so I don't see the summit having all that great a political impact."

Reagan, who has 13 months left in a two-term, eight-year White House stewardship, has had a nightmare of a year that included the Iran-Contra scandal, loss of a Republican majority in the Senate from last January, the Wall Street crash, prostate surgery and his wife's breast cancer surgery.

All contributed to an image of an ageing, out-of-touch leader — an image likely to change for the better thanks to his glittery December 8-10 summit with Gorbachev.

The summit came at a low ebb for the usually sunny, once formidably powerful chief executive. Although its practical results were rated modest by many analysts, it has undoubtedly restored him to centre stage of U.S. leadership and given him a shot of political vigour.

While the credit Reagan is getting for the summit may not help him in other foreign policy or budget battles with the U.S. Congress, his rapport with Gorbachev and his promotion of U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms



INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS—Ronald Reagan is said to have stopped the decline of his presidency by signing the INF treaty with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. (AFP)

control agreements could set the course of superpower relations for a long time to come.

"The president is going to be important in shaping the U.S. toward its major rival for the next decade," political scientist Ben Wattenberg said. "His influence on U.S.-Soviet relations will be felt far into the future."

White House officials said polls taken during the first two days of the summit showed Reagan's overall job approval rating had climbed back over 60 per cent — the level it

that would promote dialogue rather than confrontation between their traditionally hostile countries.

"Obviously, the chemistry between them is very good," said Reagan biographer Edmund Morris, a historian who has been allowed a unique front-row perch for all three Reagan-Gorbachev summits.

White House officials said polls taken during the first two days of the summit showed Reagan's overall job approval rating had climbed back over 60 per cent — the level it

was at before the Iran scandal exploded 13 months ago. It remained to be seen whether the president would do as well in independent surveys.

In any event, Reagan seemed to lay out his final agenda when he said his discussions with the 56-year-old Gorbachev had "lit the sky with hope for all people of goodwill." "It is up to both sides to ensure that the lustre does not wear off and to follow through on our commitments as we move forward to the next steps in improving the relations between our countries and peoples," he said in a rainswept departure ceremony on the White House lawn.

Reagan will next play a major role in the drive to win Senate ratification early next year of the centre-piece of the summit — a treaty that will eliminate about 2,800 U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) missiles.

He will also be preparing for another "Ron and Mikhail" summit — their fourth — in Moscow in the first half of 1988.

History shows, however, that promising summits with the Soviets does not always lead to long-term benefits for U.S. governments or the presidents who lead them.

In June 1973 the late Leonid Brezhnev visited the U.S. for talks with then-president Richard Nixon, who hailed the summit as a triumph for peace. Four months later, U.S. and Soviet nuclear forces went on full alert when war broke out in the Middle East.

Hopes raised by the signing of a strategic arms agreement at a summit between Brezhnev and Carter in June 1979 were dashed six months later when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. The Soviet military intervention forced Carter to withdraw the treaty from the Senate and prompted the resumption of an atmosphere of superpower hostility.

That atmosphere may have helped Reagan, who was regarded as a fierce foe of communism, in his successful campaign to unseat Carter in the 1980 presidential race. (Reuters)

Schultz: It's not detente, it's an expanding relationship

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Schultz said on Sunday it wasn't detente but admitted he was at a loss for a word to describe the East-West atmosphere after the Washington summit.

Schultz played a major role in achieving the medium-range missile treaty that highlighted three days of superpower talks between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev.

"If detente was the right word to describe what was going on in the 1970s, it's the wrong word to describe what's going on today," he said.

Speaking at a news conference in Copenhagen before flying to Oslo, Schultz said he did not have a single special word to describe what appears to be a new era in U.S.-Soviet relations. "What we do see is an expanding relationship, an ability to talk about a wide variety of topics," he said. "It's a different kind of atmosphere." (Reuters)

Cubans sell gold to get appliances on black market

HAVANA (AFP) — Come wind or rain, dozens of people can always be found lined up outside a white house marked only number 260, Avenue 31 in the Mariano district of Havana to participate in a kind of official black market. There, residents trade in their gold and silver jewelry at very low prices for coupons that can be later exchanged in another official business for imported television sets, household appliances and apparel from the West. "That's right," said one woman who was selling some jewelry at giveaway prices, "but it is the only way to get some items that you can't get in a regular store."

Gold medals, chains, watches and rings are sold for \$3.90 a gram for 12 karat gold and \$4.50 a gram for 18 karat gold, well below what those items would fetch commercially abroad. Silver gets a modest \$1.0 a gram.

The operation is not advertised. Clients learn about it by word of mouth and put their names on waiting lists of nearly two years in order to exchange their valuables for the coupons.

The coupons are redeemed at an operation called Cimex, a Cuban-Panamanian import-export group. There are certain unverifiable stories about the operation that lie somewhere between myth and exaggeration.

One of the best known concerned a massive gold, mystical-looking Buddha that the owner brought in to be melted down without a second thought.

Pietermaritzburg, crucible of violence

JONATHAN SHARP/

PIETERMARITZBURG,

South Africa

THEY ARE places with gentle names like Edendale, Ashdown and Sweetwaters, yet they have seen the most horrific wave of murder and violence in South Africa this year.

About 200 people have been killed and many more injured in violence between blacks. Atrocities have included the decapitation of a 10-year-old boy and the murder of a 67-year-old man who was knifed 129 times.

The killing grounds with the deceptively peaceful names are a cluster of black shanty towns on the western outskirts of Pietermaritzburg, the prime, diminutive capital of the Indian Ocean province of Natal.

"When the rest of South Africa burned, Pietermaritzburg was heaven," one resident recalled, meaning that the city patronizingly nicknamed "Sleepy Hollow" had been relatively immune from violence engulfing other parts of South Africa.

But this year, Pietermaritzburg has been transformed into a crucible of violence.

"People are just going wild. They are at fever pitch," said Peter Kerckhoff of the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness, an organization monitoring the turmoil.

Kerckhoff said 50 people had died

in the townships between January and August, but between 40 and 50 had been killed each month since then.

"The figures don't give an idea of the horror and trauma that people in the townships are going through," he said.

THE CAUSES of the horror are many, including political feuding, personal vendettas, pure crime and the desperation of people trapped in squalor and poverty.

On the political level, two groups opposed to apartheid race laws but with little else in common are struggling for power and support.

One is the one million-strong Inkatha, headed by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi whose power base is in Natal where the Zulus are by far the largest tribe.

In conflict with Inkatha are members of the United Democratic Front, a loose coalition of hundreds of anti-apartheid organizations with a claimed membership throughout South Africa of more than two million.

The UDF accuses the more conservative Inkatha of selling out to South Africa's white rulers. Inkatha says the UDF is a pawn of the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla group.

Each group accuses the other of sending gangs into the townships, threatening and sometimes maiming

or killing people who refuse to join them. Neutral observers say both groups have crossed the line from self-defence to attack.

ONE DISTRICT, Ashdown, changed hands recently when UDF supporters, some said to be armed with assegais (spears), drove out Inkatha backers. UDF people speak of how they have "taken" Ashdown, as if they have captured enemy territory.

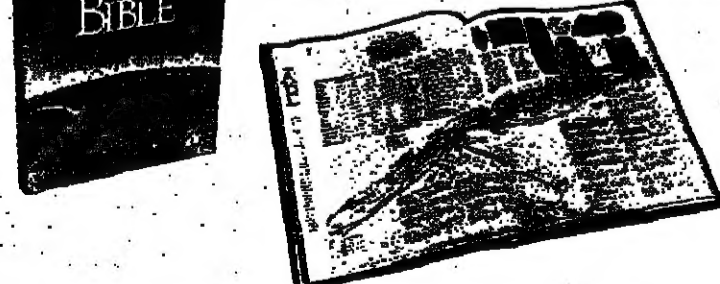
On a different level, the violence has elements of tribal faction-fighting, said Paul van Uytendaele, an official of the Pietermaritzburg chamber of commerce which is trying to mediate between the two sides. "It's like a Sicilian-type vendetta between clans," he said. "Lots of them don't understand the policies (of Inkatha and the UDF). They just choose one side or the other."

The South African police and the army have reinforced their presence in the past two months and dispersed many of the crudely-armed self-defence organizations set up on both sides.

But the violence goes on. UDF supporters accuse the authorities of either turning a blind eye to the violence or of backing Inkatha.

"It's the old case of divide and rule. Let them kill each other and then you can rule the roost," said one UDF supporter. (Reuters)

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South Korea to decide between two Kims in election tomorrow

SEOUL (AP) — The government yesterday warned that radical elements may try to violently disrupt tomorrow's presidential elections and said all precautions would be taken to ensure safe and fair balloting.

Information Minister Lee Woong Hee said lawbreakers would be dealt with swiftly and sternly, and police announced rigid security measures at election sites.

"There are clear signs that some radicals are maneuvering to disturb polling and ballot counting with violence," said Lee. "The government will do its utmost to prevent violence from disrupting the election."

All military and police forces remained on top alert Monday to guard against what officials said were possible threats from communist North Korea or from "impure elements" in the south. Army units were told over the weekend to be ready for combat.

With only one day left in the campaign, no front-runner has emerged. The contest is believed to be largely among ruling party candidate Roh Tae Woo and opposition candidates Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung. All three candidates campaigned Monday in the Seoul area, where nearly 40 per cent of the nation's 25.8 million voters reside.

Wednesday marks the country's first direct presidential elections since 1971.

Kim Young Sam, who is viewed as

a centrist, called publicly for the first time for his opposition rival, Kim Dae Jung, to drop out of the race.

"Since neutral opinion polls and influential international news media identify me as the front-runner, I demand for the first time that Kim Dae Jung concede and drop out," Kim told reporters. He said it was vital for Kim Dae Jung to withdraw to ensure a defeat of the ruling party candidate.

The two Kims earlier had promised to field a single opposition candidate, and opposition supporters feared their split could boost Roh's chances of victory.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party secretary-general Chung Suk Mo yesterday claimed the polls showed Roh with 35 per cent of the vote, followed by Kim Young Sam with 27 per cent and Kim Dae Jung with 26 per cent.

Aides to the two Kims dismissed the DJP claims, saying their polls showed their respective candidates were leading. The ruling party released the polls despite a government ban on publicizing such results on the grounds they would unfairly influence voting.

President Chun Doo Hwan, a former general who seized power with military backing in 1980, agreed to direct presidential elections after massive anti-government protests in June. He is to step down February 25 in what would be the country's first peaceful transfer of power.

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The conviction of Emunah

By Pamela Kidron

WHILE VISITING recently, British philanthropist Sam Marks said he does not want to be "rich in the cemetery" and had consequently earmarked a sizeable chunk of his money for worthy causes.

Marks and his wife Hilda were in the country recently during the seventh fact-finding mission of the British branch of Emunah, the women's organization associated with the National Religious Party. During the mission the organization officially opened a day-care centre for children (part of an existing community centre complex) in Marks's name in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighbourhood, and dedicated a similar project in Haifa for which he provided most of the funding.

British Emunah is one of the youngest and most active of the 22 international branches of Emunah, according to Ivie Levine, chairwoman of Emunah's World Organization. The UK group, which boasts that three-quarters of its 3,000 members are young women, is headed by co-chairwoman Ruth Sachs. By making connection with some of Britain's "elite," say its members, UK's Emunah has become involved in a disproportionately large number of projects in Israel — a total of 200; 20 at the present time.

Marks, owner of a successful real estate business, is part of this elite. One of nine children of a not-very-well-off Orthodox family from Manchester, he left school at the age of 14 to work in his family's textile business.

"I remember when I was still a student in *heder*," he reminisced. "Twice a year we would be taken to a clothing shop and given boots, socks, a shirt, tie, pullover and trousers. We didn't even know who donated them. I've always remembered what those people did for us — people who were probably not particularly wealthy themselves."

As a young man, he served in the British army and from 1941 to the end of the war, he was a prisoner-of-war in Japanese camps. He returned to England after the war, married, and built his father-in-law's real estate. He is currently involved in supporting a variety of both Jewish and non-Jewish causes.

"ABOUT SIX years ago my daughter, who is active in British Emunah's head office, told me about a planned Rishon LeZion day-care and community centre. I just asked, 'How much do you bloody well want?' and eventually became the \$500,000 project's prime donor. Marks said he was encouraged to become involved because he knew British Emunah's administrative overhead was low — seven pence per

pound sterling donated.

"Today I'm in a position to ask Ruth Sachs directly: 'What do you need? This is what the project is? O.K.' In fact, I only give for a specific project. This is in contrast to giving indirectly whereby your donation goes into a general fund and you don't know where it ends up."

Marks's only subsequent involvement is when he visits a completed project.

"I didn't fully realize what the Rishon LeZion project was until I came on a fact-finding mission for the first time," he recalls. "I saw the beautiful building, and the children happy and playing. That's what got me."

"EMUNAH is part of the Mizrahi women's movement," explains Prof. Eliezer Jaffe, a Hebrew University sociologist whose expertise is philanthropy.

"The Mizrahi-Emunah women — like Herut Women, Nashai Aguda, or Habad Women — are the women's social service subsidiaries of political movements. These subsidiaries are primarily involved in child care."

"The movements profess an ideology — a way of life. The way to perpetuate it is through education, such as at day centres. Donors often give money not for the underlying ideological cause but rather because they trust the agency they're giving it to."

THE HEALTH SCAN

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

CHOCOLATE manufacturers are rejoicing, but doctors, dentists and nutritionists are unhappy about the news that Israeli consumption of chocolate has jumped by 50 per cent this year over last. The increase is apparently due to the improved products being sold as a result of competition between Elite and the new chocolate manufacturer, Vered Hagalil.

Dr. Niba Shapira, a nutrition expert, warned recently that "chocolate addiction," especially among children, is bad for health. Eating a lot of chocolate raises the sugar level in the blood and can result in instability in behaviour and poor attention in class.

She also said that the powerful taste of chocolate gets kids used to concentrated flavours and makes them "bored" by the flavour of regular food. As for adults, chocolate represents "empty calories" that turn immediately into fat and can even cause headaches and blood pressure changes.

One can overcome "chocolate addiction," she advises, by trying a diet of more foods with complex carbohydrates like oatmeal or lentils.

A COLOURLESS laser beam clears out blockages of the lungs of cancer patients and dramatically eases their breathing as part of a new, non-surgical method now being employed in Hadassah and Tel Hashomer hospitals.

Called the ND-YAG laser, the \$100,000 device was manufactured by Israel Laser Industries according to a design developed in France. The first ND-YAG started operating at Hadassah-University Hospital in the capital six months ago, and the second has just been installed at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

Dr. Nira Reichert, a senior physician at Sheba's pneumology department, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the laser can greatly improve the quality of life of patients suffering from inoperable lung cancer (mostly caused by smoking), lung scars, burns and other conditions that create breathing difficulties.

"Of course, the laser does not cure lung cancer, or even extend lives of such patients," she notes, "but it makes them much more comfortable."

Reichert spent a month in a Philadelphia hospital recently to learn how to use the unusual laser, which works very accurately and destroys tissue that blocks organs without the need to open up the chest. Only a local anesthetic is required, and the patient can be released the next day.

Doctors from other local hospitals are now being trained in using the laser, which is comprised of optic fibres and metallic elements. So far, 10 patients have been treated at Sheba, with "excellent results," Reichert says that the laser device,

A dentist's nightmare



Chocolate addiction can be overcome with the help of oatmeal and lentils. (Isiah Karlinksky)

about the size of a refrigerator, is being used experimentally for removing blockages from blood vessels, and may be used in the future on blockages in the stomach, intestines and urinary tract.

THE HORMONE melatonin — produced by the pineal gland to regulate sleeping patterns — may provide an explanation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (known as SIDS or crib or cot death), according to a team of scientists from Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

A recent issue of the British weekly, *New Scientist*, reports that the melatonin levels of 45 infants who had died — 18 from SIDS and 27 from other causes — were determined by pathologists. They found that in infants who had died between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m., melatonin levels were lower than those who had died of SIDS.

William Sturmer, chief medical officer of the state of Rhode Island, reported that the key predisposing factor in crib death may be decreased melatonin levels that alter sleep patterns and/or respiration by affecting a child's autonomic nervous system.

Thus, a baby with a significantly

low level of the hormone may lack normal respiratory control and be unable to cope with regurgitation and choking, and die as a result. Infants fed a formula including tryptophan, an amino acid similar to melatonin, slept longer and better than those in the control group.

Researchers believe now that crib death is a two-stage phenomenon. Infants exposed before birth to smoking, poor nutrition or anemia on the part of their mothers may be more disposed to SIDS than others. As a result, they may be slightly handicapped or predisposed to complications that are usually not fatal. After birth, usually when asleep, there may be an obstruction of the upper airway or a mild respiratory infection, with which they cannot cope.

A HEARING-AID loan service is now available from Shema, the voluntary organization for the education and rehabilitation of hearing-impaired children and youth in Tel Aviv.

If a hearing aid goes on the blink, it can take days to get it fixed and in the meantime, the hearing-impaired person is left helpless. Shema lends out hearing aids, for only a NIS 50 deposit, for an "unlimited period."

The service is meant mainly for those whose own hearing device is broken or who have ordered a new hearing aid that has not yet arrived.

The hearing-aid bank was initiated by Israeli Prof. Moshe Bergman and American Prof. Mark Ross who solicited new hearing aids from U.S. manufacturers and brought them to Shema. Hearing aid counselling is available at Shema, Rehov Pitel Hasfer 30 in Tel Aviv (phone 335691-2-3.)

HOLLYWOOD has responded, at least in part, to a call by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide role models to young people that stress abstinence and "safe sex."

The latest issue of the World Health Organization's monthly *World Health Journal* reports that the first films to reach cinema houses since the department's Aids-inspired plea show that movie heroes are a lot less promiscuous than before.

In the latest James Bond film, *The Living Daylights*, Secret Agent 007 practices monogamy. Instead of bedding three different women in one movie, he now beds the same woman thrice. And in a police thriller, *Dragon*, the hero passes up a liaison with a blonde when he discovers that his supply of condoms has run out.

The producer of this film told a reporter: "We have to conform to what's going on in the world. We have to be responsible."

AND SOME relatively positive news about Aids: New research in the U.S. reveals that the deadly disease is not spreading like wildfire among the general public. The study, by the Centre for Disease Control, predicted that by the year 1991, 1 to 1.5 million Americans will be infected — the same prediction made 18 months ago.

The authors said that Aids remains the most serious infectious disease that has ever hit the U.S., and is not under control, but it is still not multiplying wildly among the population.

The incidence of Aids has "not increased significantly" among homosexuals in recent months, but it has increased among urban blacks and Hispanics who take drugs.

WHAT IS ADVERTISED as the "first classified guide to health and nature" is being distributed by the Nadr advertising and public relations agency in Jerusalem.

The Hebrew-language directory, called *Teva U'Briat*, is being sold at Steinitzky bookstores for NIS 2.40. It includes names, addresses and telephone numbers of everything from health food stores, homeopaths, acupuncturists, "natural" cosmetics and spas, to where you can buy seaweed, natural scents and sea salt.

THE OPTOMETRISTS' Association has just produced what it considers to be the dictionary of basic optometry terms. It is meant for optometrists, teachers, nurses, psychologists, doctors and the like. It can be purchased for a nominal fee from the association (tel. 04-643350).

secret, by people who had no right to decide.

This sort of question comes up all the time in any society committed to creating equality of opportunity between the sexes, the races and so on. The 50 per cent quota for boys in the 11-plus has precisely the same intellectual justification as minimum quotas for employing women and blacks in many western societies.

The ideological presumption is that every group would do equally well in every field if given the same opportunities. It may be true, and it may not.

For example, the fact that boys draw level with girls in intelligence in the mid-teens is not necessarily a reassertion of the natural order of things. It may simply be the effect — encouraging for boys, corrosive for girls — of society's traditional expectations about gender and destiny, which by then are hitting the kids very hard.

Maybe without that social conditioning, girls really would go first, even after the mid-teens. In any case, the 11-plus examiners were utterly in the wrong. When democratic societies engage in large-scale social engineering (and they all do, these days), the decisions must be taken openly by the entire society.

Every decision taken in this area affects hundreds of thousands, even millions of people's lives deeply (and often, in the individual's case, unfairly). We need to be very honest about what we are doing, and why.

their lives," Dunwoody said.

The women, mostly married with large families, grow sweet potatoes, beans and other vegetables on a few acres of land and sell their produce on local markets at a healthy profit. They are also experts at sewing, embroidery and dyeing.

Anita Gradin, Swedish foreign trade minister and president of Socialist International Women, said that African women were the backbone of economic development.

"We have seen how Senegalese women fight against drought and desertification, and their labour is never appreciated," Gradin said.

President Diouf said that women were "the cornerstone of everyday life in Africa" and added that much remained to be done to improve their lot.

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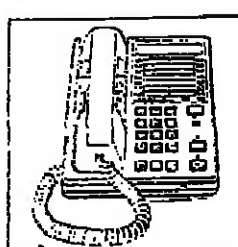
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"The 11-plus (examination) has always been doctored because you just couldn't have mixed grammar schools without boys in them. If you'd taken the raw scores, that's how it would have ended up."

George Rawcliffe, senior lecturer in further education, Blackpool, England, 1987.

LONDON.—I know a little girl who believes with absolute certainty that girls are better. She's quite kind about it, but she sees no point in denying the natural order of things. "Girls go first," she reminds me whenever I make the mistake of walking ahead of her — and she is certainly right about kids of her own age.

George Rawcliffe's statement was the first public proof of just how right she was. It revealed a huge conspiracy by which literally hundreds of thousands of young women in Britain were cheated out of the opportunity to get a university education.

The "11-plus" was a nationwide, government-administered exam that was designed to separate the wheat from the chaff. The British educational system traditionally divided sharply around the age of 13, with the promising few attending strongly academic schools leading on to university and an interesting (or at least lucrative) career, and the rest being fobbed off with second-rate schools intended to turn out uncomplaining factory fodder.

The well-to-do, of course, could

Girls go first

By Gwynne Dyer

buy their children places in "public schools" (i.e., private, fee-paying schools) where they would be groomed for university entrance. But there was a parallel system of state-supported "grammar schools" where promising students of more modest means received the same preparation for free.

There was only room in the grammar schools for about 10 per cent of the students in the state system, however, and the means of selecting them was the "11-plus." It was a monstrously arbitrary system that allowed practically no second chances, but at least it was generally reckoned to be fair.

Approximately equal numbers of boys and girls sat the 11-plus, and approximately equal numbers of boys and girls got into the grammar schools. But what George Rawcliffe has revealed is that it was not fair at all — because at least 90 per cent of the highest scores belonged to girls.

Rawcliffe has spent over a decade researching the startlingly wide gender difference in children's intelligence (as measured by IQ tests) at various ages. Young males, all the way up to the teenage years, have strikingly lower IQs than females of the same age — but then girls drop

abruptly back to parity with boys in IQ by the mid-teens.

Nobody knew that 10- and 11-year-old girls are much more clever when the 11-plus exam was first let loose on an unsuspecting Britain, but the horrified examiners learned it in short order. If they simply admitted the 10 per cent with the highest marks to the grammar schools, they would become virtually all-female institutions.

SO THEY took action to preserve the social balance. Boys and girls were separated into different lists, and the fortunate few were selected in equal numbers from the top of each list. Which meant, in practice, that each year tens of thousands of girls were relegated to "secondary modern schools" although they had scored higher than boys who went on to grammar schools.

This little piece of social engineering (now mostly defunct in Britain, although the 11-plus still survives in Northern Ireland and a few other areas) is, of course, a scandal. But what exactly is scandalous about it?

It would not necessarily have been better to deprive hundreds of thousands of boys of a chance for a higher education at 11, given that they would have caught up with the girls by the time they were actually old enough for university. The problem is that the decision was made in

DAKAR (Reuters). — African women are delivering hard-hitting speeches, forming cooperatives, and demanding recognition.

But the word "feminist" hardly exists in Africa, and some delegates at meetings recently organized by the Socialist International in Senegal preferred to be known as female "militants."

Visiting activists from the Socialist International Women's Movement nevertheless had no doubt that they were meeting kindred spirits getting a particularly raw deal from Third World society.

Senegalese Minister for Social Development Mantoulaye Guene, one of three women in the Socialist cabinet of President Abdou Diouf, made an impassioned speech in which she said women were the most important part of society.

African women awaken

By Brian Killen

However, the minister struck a more moderate tone later in an interview with Reuters, saying that women and men were complementary.

Women were especially important to rural communities, she said. Statistics supplied by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization show that 42 per cent of farmers in 82 selected countries are women, and the figure is probably higher for Africa.

For example, a working day of 14 hours was not uncommon for wom-

en in the Senegalese communes of Bamby, Diourbel or Thiès to the east of the capital, Dakar.

"The women of Africa have always run Africa. It is the men who have not been prepared to accept it," British MP Gwyneth Dunwoody said.

Fatoumata Ka, president of the Senegalese Socialist Party women's movement, described cooperative groups as an example of what women can contribute to development.

One of the cooperatives, 324 strong, was formed in June 1985 with the aim of getting women more involved in the economy.

"They want economic independence and to improve the quality of

their lives," Dunwoody said.

The women, mostly married with large families, grow sweet potatoes, beans and other vegetables on a few acres of land and sell their produce on local markets at a healthy profit. They are also experts at sewing, embroidery and dyeing.

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Pessimism among top U.S. business economists

Recession possible in 1988

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States could be in a recession by the end of 1988 because of a loss of consumer confidence following the October stock market collapse, the nation's business economists said yesterday.

The National Association of Business Economists said its latest quarterly survey, taken at the end of November, reflected growing pessimism following the record plunge in stock prices on Oct. 19.

Many of the economists for the nation's largest corporations have moved up the date when they believe the next recession will begin. Half of those surveyed now believe the next downturn will start before the end of next year. In the previous survey taken in August, only one-third were that pessimistic.

Jerry Jordan, the association official who compiled the survey, cited the stock market decline and growing disenchantment with federal efforts to deal with the U.S. budget deficit as primary reasons for the gloomier forecasts.

"A substantial number of economists are looking for reduced consumer spending to bring on the next recession," said Jordan, chief economist for First Interstate Bancorp of Los Angeles.

For 1987, the economists predicted the economy, as measured by the gross national product, would expand at a 3.2 percent rate, matching the forecast made last January by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's ad-

ministration.

But the troubles on Wall Street caused them to reduce substantially their growth forecast for 1988, dropping it to a sluggish 2 percent growth rate. In August, the economists had been expecting growth of 2.7 percent next year.

Sluggish growth would send the unemployment rate rising next year. The business forecast predicted unemployment, which is now at an eight-year low of 5.9 percent, will climb to 6.3 percent next year. Jordan said that many economists reported business holding up well in their own firms in the month following the stock decline, but they still were pessimistic about the overall economy's future.

He said 65 percent of the economists reported rising demand for their company's products, the second-highest positive level in three years.

But 50 percent of the economists still said the country would be in a recession before the end of next year and another 38 percent said the recession would begin in 1989, coinciding with the next president's first year in office.

These were among the other findings of the survey, which reflected the opinions of 209 economists:

- Inflation, as measured by consumer prices, will rise 4.3 percent next year.

- The nation's foreign trade deficit, which hit a monthly record of 17.6 billion dollars in October, will total a record 160 billion dollars this

year, but start to decline in 1988, dropping to 142 billion dollars. The 1986 deficit was 156.2 billion dollars.

- The federal budget deficit, which dipped to 148 billion dollars in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 because of windfall tax revenues, will increase in the current fiscal year to 160 billion dollars.

The economists expressed substantial dissatisfaction with efforts so far by the Administration and Congress to come up with credible reductions in the budget deficit.

Over 70 percent of those surveyed said they favored cutting defense spending by larger amounts than currently scheduled as a means of reducing the deficit. Slightly smaller majorities favored increasing liquor and cigarette taxes to raise money, and also supported cuts in social programs.

The economists were not very optimistic about administration efforts, led by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III, to stabilize the value of the dollar through coordinated efforts with other countries. They contended that market forces should be allowed to establish the proper selling price for the U.S. dollar.

The economists were nearly unanimous in predicting the dollar would fall further next year, with half of them forecasting the decline would be steeper than 10 percent. The dollar has fallen by almost 50 percent in value since February 1985.

'High security good for your tourism image'

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV. - Given the proper marketing twist, habitually tight security arrangements here could be used to shine, rather than tarnish, Israel's image as a tourist destination, representatives of a management consulting firm said this week.

Andrew Duncan, director of London-based Pannell Kerr Forster Associates, noted that efforts to maintain order frequently "conflict with open-door tourism." Nevertheless, he said, El Al has turned its security arrangements into a "positive marketing proposition." And the same could be done for other branches of the tourism industry.

On a general level, said Brian Tash, director of computer consulting services at PKF's London office, a vacationer in Israel proper might hear radio reports about unrest in the territories, yet remain tightly insulated from the actual events.

Duncan and Tash addressed a Beit Sokolov press conference that launched a free PKF seminar at the Tel Aviv Hilton for the tourism industry. The two-day programme included lectures on computer technology in the hotel industry and management contracts.

Turning to the hotel industry, Duncan said that hoteliers are coming to rely more heavily on computer forecasts designed to optimize profits. For years, it has been standard practice in the airline industry to sell some seats in advance at a discount, but hold back a certain percentage likely to fetch full fare close to the departure date.

Hotels are using computers to adapt this same technique, he said, holding back some rooms from advance sale in the expectation of booking them at higher rates as the dates near.

PKF, with nearly 300 offices in 75 countries, opened its Israel office two years ago.

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Season of provident funds

This will be the second year that Israelis mark December as the end of the tax year. That doesn't make it the season of goodwill and brotherhood that Christian tradition speaks of - most people in these parts don't have feelings of goodwill toward the tax authorities, let alone brotherhood.

But if income tax is the unwanted partner in most dealings, there are areas where it lets us have something back. Among the various tax breaks that Israelis benefit from, the most popular and commonplace is the provident fund.

This mode of savings has at least two distinct roles. On the one hand, it is a bona fide method of saving for the long-term. The record of the longer-running funds is of an average real rate of return of anywhere between 3 and 6 percent. This, compounded over the 15-year minimum for most people (five for pensioners), turns into a nice nestegg for those who either put away a lump sum, or save in regular monthly payments.

On the other hand, the fund is also the source of tax benefits on at least part of the saving. The benefits come in two forms, a credit and a deduction.

Some people may wonder how you benefit simultaneously from a credit and a deduction, but these are simple souls, unacquainted with the glories of the Israeli tax system.

To achieve full comprehension of all the fine points of provident fund tax breaks, you need time with an accountant or financial planner. A degree in maths or statistics and an MBA would help by way of preparation, and a complete rest is advisable afterwards. But the fact remains that the exercise is worthwhile in both the short and long term.

Very basically, the figures involved are as follows: The income ceiling for 1987 has been set at NIS 26,700 (don't ask why, it's probably to do with kabbalistic calculations).

From this, every provident fund member can benefit from a tax credit of twenty five per cent of five per cent-

that is 26,700 x 5 per cent = NIS 1335 saved; x 25 per cent = NIS 334 net tax credit that you get.

The credit is available for both salaried and self-employed persons. The deduction is only available for the latter group and works as follows: If you save 7 per cent of the magic NIS 26,700, you can deduct that amount (NIS 1869) from your net taxable income.

That means that you get back part of that amount, depending on your marginal tax rate, which is at least 20 per cent (=NIS 374) and can reach 52.8 per cent for very high earners (=NIS 987).

To take advantage of both credit and deduction thus requires a saving of NIS 3204, and brings a maximum tax benefit of NIS 1321. This means making back 41 per cent of your investment immediately, apart from the interest down the years-assuming, of course, you are in the top tax bracket.

In practice, how much you would save depends primarily on your earnings. But what if you don't have the spare cash to make the saving deposit before the cut-off date of December 31? Worry not, your friendly bank will give you a loan, at only a mildly usurious interest rate, so long as you deposit the money directly in a provident fund that it manages.

This is probably illegal, since it involves linking one service directly to another-but let's leave the lawyers out of this, we've got our hands full with the accountants already.

Bear in mind also that savings in life insurance schemes, as well as the risk premiums thereof, and including hituach menahelim (how do we translate that?), have the same benefit as regards the tax credit. They only apply to salaried staff and therefore the deduction aspect doesn't exist.

The bottom line is this: Don't save just to get the tax breaks. But if you save anyway in a provident fund (even for your kids) or through life insurance, as most people do, you shouldn't miss the tax benefits. There are few enough around.

Ad agency offers UK market data

Tel Aviv-based O.K. advertising agency is offering its clients use of a computer database that allows them to assess the export potential of scores of products in the British market.

A year ago, O.K. entered a partnership with Northern Publicity, a British advertising agency that developed the database that includes major manufacturers and importers.

U.S. reports strong indicators

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The U.S. enjoyed a healthy 0.4 per cent increase in industrial production in November, the first full month after the October crash on Wall Street, the Federal Reserve Board said yesterday.

At the same time, the Commerce Department reported business inventories up a sharp 0.8 per cent in October, while total business sales fell slightly. November's gain in production by the nation's factories, mines and utilities followed a 0.9 per cent surge in October.

Industrial production in November, the fed said, was 5.4 per cent higher than one year earlier. Analysts said this improvement could be attributed largely to the fall in the dollar, which had made U.S. products more competitive.

The Commerce Department said business inventories rose to a seasonally adjusted \$687.9 billion in October. This followed a 0.6 per cent increase in September. The sudden surge in inventories was blamed partly on a fall in sales. Although concerned that this would normally be the harbinger of a recession, economists pointed out that a government report Friday showed retail sales had increased 0.2 per cent in November, suggesting that the economy was not suffering.

Did Sharir snub Swiss tourism official?

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The distance between Basel and Jerusalem is 90 years and 2,900 kilometres.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel, Basel, the venue of the first Zionist Congress, has taken a back seat to Jerusalem. Prior to the creation of the State, Basel was the headquarters of Zionist aspirations, hosting no less than ten Zionist Congresses between 1897 and 1946.

For this reason, when Dennis Rhein, deputy director of the Basel Tourist Board proposed that Basel send two large delegations of government officials to Israel to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress, the idea was received with great enthusiasm. It was important to Rhein, who happens to be Jewish, that the first overseas delegation to bring greetings to Israel on this occasion, should come from Basel.

Because Basel has neither a president nor a mayor, anything of this nature organized with government participation, becomes quasi-official. In April of this year, Rhein initiated contacts with the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, requesting that the delegates meet with Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir during their visit. The delegations, he notified the ministry, would arrive in October and November respectively.

Sharir could find time for neither. The delegates, who had lunch with Knesset speaker Shlomo Hillel and who also met with MK Simcha Diniz and various other Israeli personalities, did not realize that they had been slighted.

But Rhein, who had placed a tourist emphasis on the visits, was furious. "We tried to do something which was half tourist, half official to strengthen the bonds with Israel," he told a visiting Israeli reporter in Basel. "But we got very little

cooperation from the Ministry of Tourism."

Moreover, the ministry which had been asked to publicize the presence of the Basel delegations in the Israeli press, had not exerted itself. "I hope that we can get better cooperation for the 100th anniversary," said Rhein.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, no request was made for a meeting with Sharir, and the ministry was made aware of the impending arrival of the Swiss only a short time before they arrived.

MILK DRINKERS in the U.S. will consume about 110.5 kilograms annually down slightly from this year, according to projections released yesterday by the U.S. Agriculture Department. In New Zealand, one of the world's major dairy producers, per capita milk consumption is projected at 144.8 kilograms next year, perhaps the highest in the world.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Leumi offering AACI members more benefits

Bank Leumi has confirmed to the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel that it is expanding its programme of special benefits for AACI members who maintain current accounts with the bank.

Among these benefits are a 50 per cent reduction in commissions on foreign currency transactions, a 0.2 percent improvement in the exchange for buying or selling foreign currency for amounts of \$3000 and more, and an additional 1/4 per cent over the standard deposit rate for patach free foreign currency accounts.

New benefits being added by the bank for 1988 will include a 25 per cent reduction in the charge for international Visa credit cards for first-time cardholders, and a 25 per cent reduction in the commission charged on payment orders in foreign currency received from abroad for AACI members.

To get these bonuses, AACI members have to show an up-to-date membership card.

Sun D'Or profit

Sun D'Or International Airlines, El Al's charter subsidiary, is expected to turn a profit for the second year in a row. Chairman Menahem Berger and general manager Shmuel Matiyahu noted that the company had netted about \$2.5 million during the first eight months of the current fiscal year. In the year ended March 31, the charter carrier reported nearly \$6m. in profits.

Bakers' cartel

A Haifa Magistrates' Court this week found the Bakers' Association and five northern bakeries guilty of forming an illegal cartel. The Upper

Galilee District Bakery, Davidovich Bakery, Haifa Abud Bakery, Yam-Suf Bakery and Oranin Bakery each fined NIS 1,700.

The court found that the bakeries had agreed in 1984 to stop producing regular *hallos* and to bake only fancier varieties to be sold at a higher price. The Industry and Trade Ministry representative who monitors illegal trade practices found the five bakeries guilty of violating the Restrictive Trade Law.

Vitalgo orders

Vitalgo Textile Works Ltd. said Sunday it had won three orders from West Germany totalling about 1.5 million Deutschmarks. The company said the orders, which will be filled in 1988, will substantially increase its turnover for the year but should not overtax its production facilities.

Consumer rights

Histadrut Secretary-General Secretary Yisrael Kessar, in his role as an Alignment MK, proposed two amendments to the Bankruptcy Ordinance and to the Companies Ordinance this week that would give priority to consumer protection.

The legislation would make consumers the next in line, after employees, to be compensated from the bankrupt company's liquidated assets. Current law gives priority to creditors and state bodies.

Kessar noted that consumers were often asked to pay for goods in advance of delivery, which makes them especially vulnerable in the event a company fails.

Lufthansa in J'lem

"We hope that after the opening of a Lufthansa office in Jerusalem, the German Embassy will follow suit," Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir said last week at a reception to mark the opening of Lufthansa's third Israel office. "Jerusalem," he declared, "has much more to offer than Herzliya Pituah."



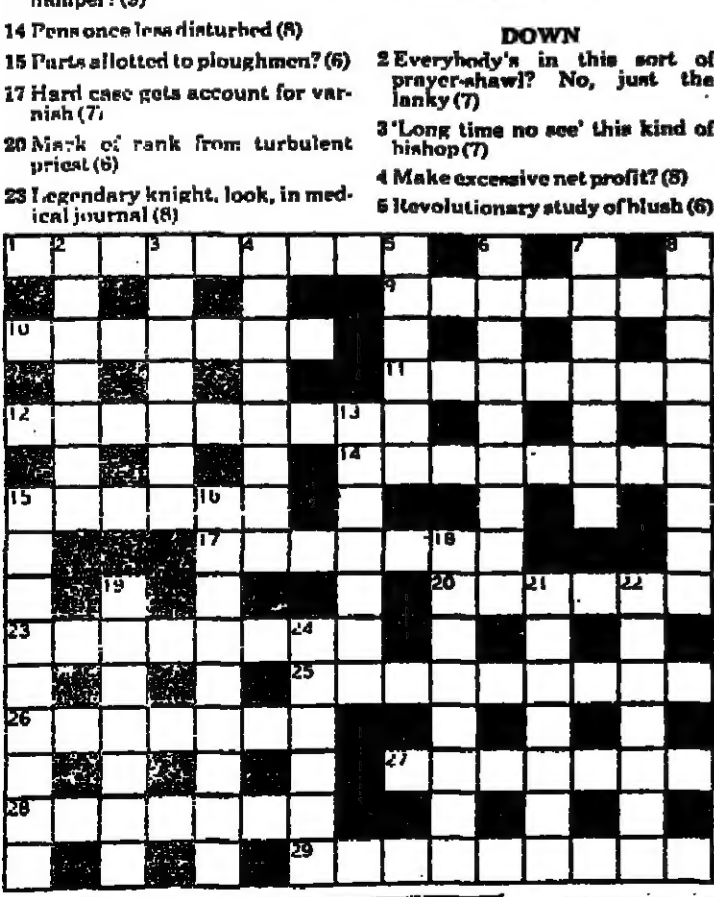
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 One who has rulers burning into tears (9)
- 9 England's first two trees? Non-acorned (7)
- 10 Soft soap is smoother (7)
- 11 He will kick society and kick in Rugby (7)
- 12 Bird found in the picnic hamper (9)
- 14 Penn once less disturbed (8)
- 15 Parts allotted to ploughmen? (6)
- 17 Hard case gets account for varnish (7)
- 20 Nick of rank from turbulent priest (6)
- 23 Legendary knight, look, in medical journal (8)

DOWN

- 2 Everybody's in this sort of prayer-ahaw? No, just the lanky (7)
- 3 'Long time no see' this kind of hishop (7)
- 4 Make excessive net profit? (6)
- 5 Revolutionary study of hush (6)
- 6 Remember to pass hat round again? (9)
- 7 To make merry, try merry-go-round endlessly? (7)
- 8 Household linen in put up in it while tea's prepared (5,4)
- 13 Chock-full but unusual peer let in (7)
- 15 Spinsterhood? (5-4)
- 16 The language around N E separator (9)
- 18 Liquidator of donkey-team at home (9)
- 19 Pen love-letters, perhaps, and wrap them up (7)
- 21 Ill-feeling in Franco-Uruguayan band (7)
- 22 Triumph for Pa with liver trouble (7)
- 24 Sorta out books (6)



Yesterday's Solutions

TWO PENCE BROCH
R A H O V A
UNDERMAN WYVERN
U W N A R D
P O R R I D G E A L E P P O
S E G E F I A V
O A E E T D R
F O U R S E A T E R
F E I R E D O P P
E D I C T E S O L I T A R Y
N T W R N L T
D R O V E R C A L A B A S H
E U R L N C O
R A T H E R S L A T T E R N

QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Revs. 2 Together, 9 Tokem, 10 Rardrom, 11 Nip, 13 Urrat-nem, 14 Refori, 15 Smite, 16 Comm-urain, 20 Det, 22 Orogami, 23 Chide, 25 Yek, 4 Oheyel, 5 Kervism, 6 Harvet-vel, 7 Kamow, 8 Rmiz, 12 Potential, 14 Rockoon, 16 Netrack, 17 Casino, 19 Neck, 21 Trend, 24 Lee.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Photograph (6)
- 2 Painter (7)
- 3 Boat race meeting (7)
- 4 Salt water (5)
- 10 Beyond what is proper (6)
- 11 Full moon leather (7)
- 12 Flightless bird (4)
- 15 Cinnamon (6)
- 17 City of G. Spain (8)
- 20 Animal in crime (4)
- 22 Long-dwelling (7)
- 24 Lift with effort (6)
- 26 Custumary (6)
- 27 Did a favour (7)
- 28 Hearing help (6)
- 29 Abnormally in (6)

DOWN

- 1 Garden frame (7)
- 2 Piece of cast metal (6)
- 3 Reptilian topos (7)
- 4 Risk (6)
- 5 Striped animal (6)
- 6 Offensive (6)
- 7 Level odds (6)
- 12 Delect (4)
- 14 Make whole (4)
- 16 Wars (7)
- 18 'The Moor of Venice' (7)
- 19 Late for payment (7)
- 21 Observed (6)
- 22 Celtic priest (6)
- 23 Very light wood (6)
- 25 Wrangle (6)

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Karmiel: Kupat Holim Herman, Simat Modi'in, 715138.
Haifa: Hanita, 22 Hanita, 231905.

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Dan Region *781111 Petah Tikva *923111
Eilat 72333 Rehovot *481333
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Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-655555, 03-655555 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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The Syrian provocation

WHAT WAS CLEAR enough from the outset has now been made official. It was Syria that was the architect of the glider attack on the IDF base near Kiryat Shmona last month, executed by a member of Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Direct responsibility for the attack, in which six Israeli soldiers were killed, has been publicly assumed by Syria's defence minister, Mustafa Tlas.

The PFLP-GC is a Syrian-sponsored "rejectionist" PLO splinter group, with headquarters in Damascus. Its military bases are located in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley. Its communique reporting the attack was couched in the typically Syrian terms of delivering a body blow to the Camp David agreement and to the political peace process. And by far the loudest Arab huzzas for the ridiculously inflated reports of the exploit, emanated from Damascus, where it was portrayed as proof positive that Syria had become "the fortress and impregnable bulwark of the Arab struggle and steadfastness."

Such open gloating by the Syrians over Israel's discomfiture was itself blatantly self-incriminating, and seemed to indicate a calculated return to the open endorsement of anti-Israel terrorism.

Still, it did not amount to the Syrian government officially embracing Ahmed Jibril and formally taking credit, so to speak, and never mind what blame, for his latest work. This was done by Defence Minister Tlas in a lecture at the Syrian Air Academy last week, and it poses a grave new challenge to not only Israel but to every country, in both the region and around the world, which means, or even half means, what it says when it says that it seeks the peace of the Middle East.

Until now, Syria never directly identified itself with the activities of the "Palestinian freedom-fighters," even if some of those were plainly its pawns. Now Syria is willing to step forward and proclaim itself godfather to one of the most fiendish of the Palestinian terrorist gangs, even in contravention of its own undertakings under the post-Yom Kippur War agreements for a cease-fire and a separation-of-forces.

What it is precisely that Syria's rulers have in mind in acting this way, can only be surmised. But it is not unreasonable to assume that President Assad expects to win back a position of influence within the Arab world for his doddering and isolated regime by posing as the one true protector of the Palestinians, and enemy of peace with the hateful Israel.

Israel can have no interest in starting a full-scale war with Syria. But its readiness to spike its guns for the duration of the Washington summit, in response to a U.S. request, must on no account be interpreted as permanently renouncing the military option against its Syrian-sponsored enemies across the border, even if that threatens to bring in the Syrians themselves.

Israel against itself

IN THE END, in practical terms, it made no difference that one half of this country's so-called national unity government, represented for the occasion by Yossi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's director-general, was willing for the Israel delegation to abstain rather than vote against a Jordanian draft resolution - in the UN General Assembly - calling for the convening of an international conference on Arab-Israeli peace; despite heated objections from the other half of the government, represented by the country's UN ambassador, Binayamin Netanyahu.

The resolution which Dr. Beilin thought moderate enough was at the last moment withdrawn under pressure from other Arab delegations to the General Assembly. They evidently thought it much too accommodating to Israeli - well, some Israeli - and American tastes. For one thing it included no reference to the PLO, nor to the return of the "Arab territories" to their rightful owners.

It did not, however, call for direct talks, without preconditions, between Israel and Jordan that would aim to secure Arab consent for the principle of the indivisibility of Eretz Yisrael under Israel's rule. For that reason, the mere threat of an Israeli failure to register a "nay" vote on it, struck Herut's resident Cassandra, MK Uzi Landau, as little short of perfidious. Mr. Landau promptly called for the sacking of Dr. Beilin. Mr. Landau is apparently willing to wait for his favourite resolution to be passed, even until the world freezes over.

No doubt he, like his fellows, would simply claim that the world is against us. But at times it is not so much a case of the world being against Israel, as of Israel being against itself.

PROTESTS

(Continued from Page One)

incensed by rumours that wounded Gazans, airlifted from Khan Yunis, had been put to death at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. (See story, page 4.)

IDF foot patrols, comprising several dozen men in one area, were in evidence throughout the Strip, as rioting resumed in the northern Gaza refugee camps of Jabalya and Shati.

In other areas, panic set in after mosque loudspeakers were used to spread the rumour that water systems had been poisoned or drugged. Long lines formed at private wells, where Gazans filled large jugs and containers.

Throughout the day, security forces arrested demonstrators suspected of incitement or overt attacks against soldiers. In some cases, relatives and friends of the suspects attempted to interfere with the arrests by holding on to the suspects, only to be forcibly separated by soldiers.

In the El-Bureij refugee camp, soldiers collected paper Palestinian flags drawn by schoolchildren and taped to walls. Palestinian flags also flew from a Khan Yunis mosque.

The commercial strike that has paralyzed most Gaza business districts since last Thursday continued yesterday. Although some workers from northern Gaza were able to get to their jobs in Israel, many had difficulty returning home in the afternoon.

In central Gaza, Civil Administration officials summoned local notables to discuss steps to quell the unrest. According to one participant, the notables were warned that the IDF may take a harder line if

quiet is not restored.

In the West Bank yesterday, the number of disturbances dropped off sharply in comparison with previous days, military sources said.

However, continued unrest was reported in several locations.

The curfew lifted on Sunday night at the Balata refugee camp was reimposed yesterday morning after protesters began hurling stones at troops. It was the second consecutive day that the curfew was reinstated after violence erupted when it was lifted.

Balata has been under intermittent curfew since Friday when Border Police opened fire at rioters in the camp, killing three and wounding nine.

A commercial strike in Nablus remained in force for the third consecutive day.

Troops used tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters who set up roadblocks and hurled stones at the al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, as well as near the Polytechnic in Hebron and in other locations in that town. At the Jelazoun refugee camp, a protester was hurt in the hand when troops broke up a crowd which pelted them with stones.

The U.S. yesterday criticized Israeli measures in the territories.

The unrest produces acts of violence by Jewish settlers and Palestinians, as well as "harsh security measures by Israeli occupation authorities," said deputy State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley. "We view the continuing violence with serious concern," she added.

IN THE LAST few weeks, Shimon Peres has reportedly been expressing the view that after the next elections, a new national unity government ought to be formed. The logic of his position seems to be as follows:

If Labour were to form a government, in coalition with Mapam, the Citizens Rights Movement, the new central movement and some of the religious parties, which could command a small majority, and if the Likud were to remain in opposition, any peace agreement that might be signed with Jordan would be defeated in the Knesset. Labour's religious coalition parties would almost certainly vote against it together with the Likud and the other right-wing parties.

This arithmetical calculation might, of course, prove faulty if Hadas and the Progressive List for Peace were together to command at least as many Knesset seats as Labour's fickle potential religious partners.

But even assuming the calculation to be correct, why should one assume that the Likud in a new national unity government, even one in which the premiership was to remain in Labour hands throughout its four-year term, would be any more willing to approve an agreement with Jordan regarding a territorial compromise or a condominium in the territories than it is today?

Is it not the Likud that is currently blocking any progress in Peres's peace initiative? Besides, since when is anyone in the Likud willing to accept a Jordanian option? A minority in the Likud might perhaps be prepared to accept some form of Palestinian option.

PERES IS NOT the only Labourite to have recently expressed support

for the idea of a new national unity government after the next elections. In an incredible interview with the economic daily *Mabat* published on November 13, Deputy Knesset Speaker Dov Ben-Meir actually turned the national unity government into an ideology.

Briefly, he makes the following points:

The historical debate between Labour and the Likud is over: both accept Thatcherite neo-capitalism. The socialist course of the Labour economy has failed both in Hevrat Ha'ovdim and the kibbutzim. Labour has no partner for the territorial compromise, while the Likud does not dare annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, because it is afraid of a bi-national state. The decisions which must be taken are so great that no narrow government could possibly bear the burden. Neither Labour nor the Likud can offer Israel a stable government.

Finally, he holds that the black-mailing power of the small parties is more dangerous to the Israeli democracy than a national unity government which paralyzes the Knesset in its role as supervisor of the executive branch.

IT IS NOT difficult to knock down most of Ben-Meir's arguments.

The historical debate between the insistence on the Jewish state being established on both banks of the Jordan and the pragmatic agreement to make do with a Jewish state

Labour and the next government

No more national unity

Susan Hattis Rolef

in only part of western Eretz Yisrael may be over. However, it has been replaced with a new one - between the insistence that the State of Israel remain in control of the whole of western Eretz Yisrael, even if this will endanger the state's Jewish majority and its democratic character, and the pragmatic agreement to give up part of these territories in return for peace, in order to avoid Israel's turning into a bi-national or an apartheid state.

But there are other issues on which the two camps are deeply divided. Some of them, such as whether all the Jewish religious streams are to be accorded equal rights under Israeli law, came up in last week's Zionist Congress which ended in violence. Another divisive issue is how one feels about permanently ruling over 1.4 million Palestinians who do not wish to be ruled by us - something that concerns the very essence and nature of the state.

RETURNING TO THE Ben-Meir interview. Most members of the Labour Party do not accept Thatcherite economics.

Nor do they accept his thesis that the labour economy and the kibbutzim are in difficulties because their ideological basis is wrong. They are in difficulties because, after they

were forced into heavy debt by the Likud's economic mismanagement and their own failure to stick to their ideological principles, their situation was further aggravated by the present government's policy of exorbitant interest rates. Most of Labour's economic experts believe that policy to be wrong, but currently do not have the power to change it.

One could continue in the same vein, and the only conclusion would be that perhaps Dov Ben-Meir is a member of the wrong party.

However, the arguments against turning the national unity government into a post-election goal go beyond arithmetic, wishful thinking regarding the Likud's future policy on the peace process, or Ben-Meir's ideological waywardness.

ONE OF THE Labour Party's main problems since 1977 has been loss of self-confidence. For most Labourites, this is not a loss of faith in the party's positions but in its ability to change the political balance within today's Israeli society.

Only if Labour were to form a government in which it was truly predominant, and in control not only of the premiership and the Ministry of Defence but also of the Treasury, would it be able to fully demonstrate its credibility and capabilities, and thus regain some of its old power and glory. Furthermore, even if it were true

that peace can only be attained with the Likud in the government, what about Labour's priorities in the spheres of education, health, agriculture and settlement, which it is unable to realize within the framework of the national paralysis government?

Peres may believe that the international conference should be the top priority. Most of his party disagree.

Finally, if the Labour Party goes into the next election campaign saying that, no matter what the results, it will favour a new national unity government, it is bound to lose a certain percentage of its more ideologically motivated and articulate voters to Mapam, CRM and the new central party.

If Labour lost several mandates to these parties, which would most probably remain outside a new coalition with the Likud, its chances of having the power to dictate conditions to the Likud would be greatly reduced. Certainly there can be no one in the Labour Party who wishes to be the weaker party in a new national unity government!

The correct policy for the Labour Party at this juncture should be to concentrate on clarifying its positions to itself and to the electorate, and trying to maximize the number of its seats in the 12th Knesset.

It can do neither if it sets a national unity government as its goal. The decision on the nature of the next government should be left until after the results of the elections are known.

The writer is editor of the Labour movement's monthly, *Spectrum*.

Electoral reform is necessary to restore public confidence in government

Parties are imperative

Misha Louvish

people, with policies which they explain to the electorate when appealing for support.

If this electoral process is to have any meaning, the representatives of the people must have the power to determine the composition of the executive, to supervise its activities, and, if necessary, to replace it if it is not faithful to its trust. This last power is rarely exercised, but its existence in reserve is vitally necessary to guard against the possibility of a cabinet dictatorship.

Thus, to take a historical example, it was the drastic drop in his own party's confidence in Neville Chamberlain's conduct of the war that led to his fall in 1940 and his replacement by Churchill.

In our own parliament, it is the need to retain the confidence of the House that stimulates the government to deal with the country's problems and compels it to take public opinion into account. By regularly consulting with representatives of their own party, cabinet members can not only explain their policies to the nation - which they could do through the radio and TV - but also get feedback from those for whom they speak.

IRONICALLY, Knesset reform is

practically within reach. The electoral reform bill presented by Gad Ya'acobi on behalf of the Labour Party passed its preliminary reading, with the support of members of other parties, several months ago, and has been prepared by the Law and Constitution Committee of the Knesset for presentation to the full House.

The bill, which has widespread support, would establish a close relationship between two-thirds of the members and the voters in their constituencies, with the other third of the seats serving as a counterweight to prevent a minority of the voters electing a majority of the legislature.

This vitally important reform is being held up by the Likud, although some of its members, like Meir Shitrit and Ehud Olmert, have backed it. Shitrit has even suggested a national petition in favour of reform. There is no need of a petition; all be, and others of a like mind, have to do is to stand up for their opinions and support Ya'acobi's bill.

We need, first of all, to enhance

the Knesset's prestige. Once this is done, it would be worth considering how, on the other hand, to strengthen the position of the prime minister, to counterbalance the influence of the smaller parties that have to be placated by the larger ones.

This could be done by having him elected by the Knesset. It might also be advisable to give him the prerogative of the British prime minister to order new elections if the parliamentary situation proved untenable.

Peres, during his premiership, set a precedent by disciplining Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Moda'i, although he was only able to use his power to dismiss ministers partially - getting the former to apologize for his unseemly behaviour and depriving the latter of his portfolios while he stayed in the cabinet.

THE INFLUENCE of the extra-parliamentary institution of the parties is already less than it used to be. Moshe Nissim, for example, did not have to consult with Likud party institutions before voting against the continuation of the Levi project, and Uzi Baram would not dream of using his authority as Labour Party secretary-general to dictate to His-tadrut Secretary-General Yisrael

Kessar or Vice Premier Shimon Peres.

The parties have important functions to fulfil; without them there can be no effective democracy. They have to decide broad lines of policy and present them to the electorate, so that it may be able to choose between clearly defined alternatives.

We do not, as yet, have a formal constitution enforceable by the Supreme Court, but we have a system of laws regulating the powers of the government, the Knesset and the courts, a system of checks and balances (although the term is not often used in an Israeli context) that has, by and large, worked for 40 years. It can, and should, be improved, but it would be a great mistake to replace it unthinkingly with an imitation of a system in force elsewhere, without taking our special conditions into account.

In the final analysis, if we are not to have a dictatorship, it is the will of the people as expressed in elections that will determine the kind of government that we will have. If the voters repeat the collective mistake of 1984 by making it impossible for one of the two major parties to form a stable government, nothing but a dictatorship can save us from a repetition of the present lamentable state of affairs.

The writer is a Jerusalem writer and translator.

READERS' LETTERS

NOAM GIRLS' SCHOOL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - According to your article of December 4, "Split in the golden path," the uniform of Noam school girls consists of sleeves down to the elbows and stockings. I would like to point out that the girls wear knee socks and not stockings.
The article also claims that the school discourages national service away from home. Since Noam is an elementary school, I presume that you are referring to Upanat Zvia in Yirmiyahu Street, which is considered the continuation of Noam, as both schools follow the way of the Rav Kook. I attended both schools and in my final year at Zvia, the

school brought a number of speakers from all over the country to talk to us about national service. These included speakers from Shlomi, Kiryat Shmona, Kiryat Malachi and other settlements and institutions in need of help. In my class of 32 girls, two got married, two went to a *michlala*, and the rest all did national service, 90 per cent of them outside of Jerusalem.

Finally, I would like to point out that those header boys who wear big knitted *kippot* are considered the IDF's finest soldiers.

MICHAEL SIDELSKY
Jerusalem.

COMMERCIAL TV

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - A recent article in *The Jerusalem Post* discussed the new TV channel, the imminent advent of commercial advertisements on TV and the anticipated resultant loss of revenue to the country's newspapers.

The writer concluded that (naturally) the newspapers would have to be compensated - meaning by the government, i.e. the taxpayer. I would think that logic dictates that

the newspapers should work harder to keep their advertising income, which they can easily do. One need only look at newspapers in other countries to see how successful they have been in this respect.

Let us not look to our depleted treasury for yet another subsidy.

ZACHARY COHEN

Ra'anana.

All West European countries have an elaborate state subsidy system for newspapers. - Ed. J.P.

UNMASK SYRIA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - I am amazed. Syria supported the recent terrorist attack on the military camp near Kiryat Shmona. Syria is protecting well-known Nazis in Damascus. Syria is preparing chemical warfare against Israel. Syria supports terrorism against Israel in words and deeds.

And what does Israel do? It does not protest. It does not launch an information campaign to alert world public opinion. Israel ducks. This has nothing to do with diplomatic tact. On the contrary, it is a clear sign of failure in the diplomatic field.

DR. BARBARA LUBER

Munich.

THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - I see in your report of November 30 that the Israel Electric Corp. has decided to adjust prices in order to discourage peak-hour use of electricity.

And how does the electric company propose to do that? By charging the large industrial users more at the peak hours? No, by charging the industrial users even less at the off hours.

And what about the revenues that the electric company loses by this price reduction? No problem. Those revenues are to be restored by a 4 per cent hike in the price of electricity for small businesses and homeowners - the same consumers who are paying the large users' electrical bills anyway every time they buy mass-produced goods and services.

I hope that the Knesset Finance Committee will take a hard look at the proposed price changes, from the point of view of the individual citizen.

MARK LEVINSON
Herzliya.

Gurdjieff
Ouspensky
Centre
052-574423

HANUKKA IN THE JEWISH QUARTER

On Tuesday, December 15, a festive lighting of the first Hanukka candle will be held at 5.30 p.m. in the Cardo, the Jewish Quarter, in the Old City, Jerusalem.

The guest of honour will be Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem.

Entertainment will be provided by -
★ Dorit Reuveni rendering songs from her repertoire

★ Naomi Ron leading community singing
You are invited to participate in this ceremony of kindling the first Hanukka light.

Free transportation from the Hilton, Laromme, Plaza, King David, Ramada Renaissance, Moriah and Hyatt Hotels will leave at 4.30 p.m.

Doughnuts will be distributed.

No charge.



THE COMPANY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT OF THE JEWISH QUARTER IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM.